

Hafa Adai!

With Propst's resignation, Attao declares vacancy in Precinct 1. **PAGE 2**
IPI: DPW stop work order will be resolved quickly. **PAGE 3**

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2 women charged in 3-year-old's death to be tried separately

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Two women, including the

mother, who allegedly caused the death of a 3-year-old boy will be tried separately after the Superior Court determined

that the only similarities between the two cases is the young victim.

Superior Court Presiding

Judge Roberto Naraja granted yesterday the motion of the two suspects, Lynn Fitial and Stacey Laniyo, to be tried

separately.

Naraja said the government did not allege any connection between the two incidents.

"Each defendant was charged under two separate subsections of 6 CMC § 5312, and
See 2 WOMEN on Page 4

'Exercise your right to vote'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With almost everything about this year's general election being out of the ordinary—starting with a campaign period that had to comply with social distancing protocols and candidates relying on social media to connect with voters amid the global COVID-19 pandemic—thousands of CNMI

» **68 candidates for 39 positions**
» **Out-of-ordinary election where voters have to wear face masks, observe social distancing**

voters will be required today to wear face coverings when they troop to polling places to choose from 68 candidates those who will go on to occupy 39 positions, including a delegate to the U.S. Congress, a justice, and two judges.
See EXERCISE on Page 4

7,334 early voters as of Saturday

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

As of Saturday, there were a total of 7,334 early voters in the CNMI and the number is expected to still go up by

» **Big turnout seen in last day of early voting**

a large margin as there was a big turnout in yesterday's early voting.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez said that there were a lot of voters

See 2 7,334 on Page 4

Trump threatens to fire Fauci in rift with disease expert

By **ZEKE MILLER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OPA-LOCKA, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump is suggesting that he will fire Dr. Anthony Fauci after Tuesday's election, as his rift with the nation's top infectious dis-

See TRUMP on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 2, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,628	62	4,690
Recovered	2,666	0	2,666
Active	1,883	62	1,945
Deaths	79	0	79
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	67,233		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	96	0	96
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	22,633*		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.



TINIAN ROAD PROJECT

Thomas Jung, from Philadelphia, Pa., and Austin Lyttle, from Greenback, Tenn., both deployed as the Seabee expeditionary construction and engineering capability of Task Force 75, operate the 120M motor grader and roller as part of the ongoing Marpo Heights Road G construction on Tinian. The road improvement project is a U.S. Department of Defense mission.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

INSIDE



NATION

President Donald Trump and Joe Biden have their last chance to make their case to voters.

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ASIA

A super typhoon in the Philippines kills at least 10 people and triggered volcanic mudflows.

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LIFE & STYLE

Prince William tested positive for the coronavirus in April, according to a BBC report.

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Local

With Propst's resignation, Attao declares vacancy in Precinct 1

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REPORTER

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) notified Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week that he has declared a vacancy in the House of Representatives, with the resignation of Edwin K. Propst, representing Precinct 1.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista confirmed yesterday that the Office of the Governor

received Attao's official communication about the vacancy declaration.

Bautista said that Torres waited for Attao to officially declare the vacancy before acting on the appointment, in line with Article II, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution and in respect of the separation of powers between two equal branches of government.

"Moreover, in line with 1 CMC Section 6502 and his-

torical precedent with other legislative vacancies, the governor has 30 days from the date of the declared vacancy to appoint the unsuccessful candidate for the office [at the last election]," Bautista said.

Attao said that, according to the constitution, a vacancy in the Legislature shall be filled by special election if one-half or more of the term remains. If less than one-half of the term

remains, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing the unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve or, if no candidate is available, a person qualified for the office from the district represented will be appointed.

Attao requested Torres, consistent with Section 9 of Article II of the CNMI Constitution, to appoint a repre-

sentative for the vacant office as soon as possible so that Precinct 1 may resume its full representation in the House.

Franklin Reyes Babauta, a retired official of the Department of Public Safety, will likely be given the chance to serve Precinct 1 and the Commonwealth.

Babauta, who ran as an independent candidate in 2018, landed in seventh place. Precinct 1 has six slots for a House representative.

Babauta's wife, Celina, is running for Precinct 1 in today's election.

The speaker said if the individual does not accept, the next highest voter will be appointed to serve the remaining term.

Propst's resignation took effect last Oct. 1. His term was supposed to end on Jan. 11, 2021.

Propst's name is still in today's ballot as a candidate for Precinct 1 under the Democratic Party. Propst stepped down from his job, saying he has reached his limits due to an extremely stressful job, the attacks on his name, and cyber bullying.

Torres: CNMI never had a better relationship with DoD than today

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres acknowledged that the CNMI has never had a better relationship with the U.S. Department of Defense than what the Commonwealth has today. That, however, does not mean the CNMI is giving up everything to DoD, he said, nor does it say that the government is not going to sit down and listen.

This was Torres' response when asked by the House Committee on Federal & Foreign Affairs about the status of the administration's proposed substitute version of House Joint Resolution 21-008, pertaining to the administration's stance on expanded military activities in the CNMI.

Torres said his administration's proposed substitute basically states where the CNMI came from and what's the Commonwealth's situation today and going forward in creating a working partnership with the DoD family. "I want to emphasize that the resolution that they have is basically the amendments that we gave [and] is a thorough synopsis of what has transpired since I got on board and even when I was the Senate president," the governor said.

Torres said the document is not simply a resolution, but has thorough, accurate information not just for DoD but also for the CNMI community to understand what he has done to protect the environment, culture, Pagan, and Tinian.

He said the partnership with DoD is an opportunity for the Commonwealth. "We appreciate that relationship," the governor added.

House Committee on Federal & Foreign Affairs chair

Rep. Luis John Castro (Ind-Saipan) said in an interview Friday they discussed the substitute version of the resolution that, together with the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs.

Castro said they then decided that, since only three of them were present, including himself, it would be better to get a consensus from all committee members before deciding whether to accept the substitute version.

Castro said the main author of the resolution, Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), was not at the meeting due to scheduling conflicts. "Out of respect for her and respect for other members, we deferred [the matter to] a later time when everyone's schedules clear up," he said.

Castro said they will be a calling a meeting soon.

Torres recently inquired about the status of the resolution as it has been weeks since their meeting and that it is his understanding that Castro has not convened a meeting with his committee members to adopt the substitute version that he submitted.

After receiving the governor's letter, Castro immediately called a meeting and invited Torres or his representative to join.

The lawmaker acknowledged that, with both the issues surrounding the passage of the budget bill for fiscal year 2021 and each of them attending to matters both office-related and personal, the committee has not been able to convene.

The original version of House Joint Resolution 21-08 requests Torres to oppose any increase in military presence or training in the Northern Mariana Islands, including all proposed military use of the Northern Islands."



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IPI: DPW stop work order will be resolved quickly

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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC expects a quick resolution to the Department of Public Works' order stopping IPI's construction of its resort/casino in Garapan.

IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne said they are working diligently to resolve the issue with their engineers and resume construction for the Imperial Pacific Resort as they can't afford construction delays due to clerical issues.

IPI received the stop work order from DPW last Tuesday, Oct. 27.

"The DPW officers are coming again to the jobsite on Friday morning. Hopefully we can resume next Monday [Nov. 2, 2020]," Browne said.

In its notice of violations Tuesday, DPW's Building Safety Code Division ordered IPI to stop work immediately until it complies with some requirements. DPW suspended all construction work on the hotel's

Level 3 to Sky Level 14 until shop drawings and revised plans are submitted to and approved by DPW's Building Safety officer. DPW also suspended all welding work until special inspectors are on board and approved by the Building Safety officer. DPW said that failure to comply may result in fees, civil penalties, or fines.

DPW said its order will remain in effect until the Build-

ing Safety Division rescinds it.

Browne said IPI has submitted thousands of pages of blueprints, construction documents, and shop drawings prepared by CNMI-certified architects, structural engineers, and MEP engineers. Those submissions reportedly include drawings documenting changes in the original plan.

Browne said DPW advised that a few shop drawings

were not submitted as required. He said these drawings and certifications are with their third-party engineers for submission to DPW.

He said their construction team had a meeting at DPW with IPI's engineers.

"We fully expect the engineers to send the documents at once," Browne said.

DPW's Building Safety Code Division representative/inspector Gani Salazar issued the notice of violation last Oct. 9. IPI resident project director Jing Zhou received the notice on that same day.

On Tuesday, *Saipan Tribune* published Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) statements in

which she asked how long and why IPI has been allowed to proceed with their construction project without approved construction documents.

Sablan said Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioners during their monthly board meeting last Tuesday stated that the Department of Public Works has been "trying" to get permit drawings from IPI for at least a year.

"But it appears that IPI has lacked complete, accurate, and certified drawings for much longer than that," said the lawmaker when asked for comments about DPW's issuance of notice of violations to IPI.

Ada says PSS is methodologically strategizing for in-person classes

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said the Public School System is methodologically exploring its options on how to reopen schools safely for the resumption of in-person instruction.

Speaking at the Board of Education meeting, Ada stated that the planning is going slowly because they are "very cognizant" of COVID-19, asymptomatic persons, and information that the virus is a "super spreader."

Right now, Ada is pleading with parents to give remote learning a chance. He acknowledged that many parents



Ada

want to open face-to-face instruction in elementary schools and Ada assured that PSS do plan to do that, but they are still planning if they have to increase class sizes from 10 to 15 students per class and working with their rosters on which students will come in for the morning or afternoon sessions.

BOE member Paul Miura, who attend the special meeting via Google Hangouts, asked if the increase in the number of students in a classroom would be against social distancing rules and if they have to talk to the COVID-19 Task Force on this issue. Ada said they are still negotiating with the task force on this matter, so there's no clear "yes" or "no" answer. Ada stated that they are working with the principals and the principals are working with the teachers on deciding how to reopen smoothly because "of all the conditions in this pandemic."

As for bus services, Ada stated that, in the case of for face-to-face instruction, the PSS Office of Transportation has put in place new rules to ensure the safety of students

when they are transported from bus shelters to campuses. PSS Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas assured that the rules are compliant with the governor's COVID-19 directives. The number of student passengers, for example, has been reduced to 22 from 40 to 60, San Nicolas said. This means that a row of seats, which usually accommodates two to three students, will now only have one.

As for the bus itself, it will be sanitized more often and children's temperature will be taken before they enter the bus, and it is mandatory for students to wear a face mask throughout the bus ride.

"We need to comply with directives on social distancing and other safety measures to ensure that we protect the students and staff on the bus," San Nicolas said. "We need to ensure that we transport the students to school on time and safely."

A small survey that was distributed to PSS parents shows that 94.7% of parents says that their child has yet to use the Blackboard Ultra platform that's used for remote learning, Ada said. Additionally, they're still collecting data until the first day of the second quarter, Nov. 17, to get a clearer picture of how remote learning is working. This is the third week that the platform has been up and running.

As of Oct. 19, there are currently 8,180 students enrolled on all three islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Ada stated that the Department of Youth Services and the School Attendance Review Committee are assisting PSS in locating the families who are hard to reach. Before the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PSS district-wide enrollment was 9,486 students.

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Tourist's suit vs ICE is dismissed

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has dismissed the lawsuit filed by a Russian tourist against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for lack of jurisdiction.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has dismissed the lawsuit of Denis Uvarov

against ICE without prejudice. That means the lawsuit can still be refiled.

In her three-page order, Manglona said the court lacks jurisdiction over Uvarov's claim because Uvarov failed to exhaust all his administrative remedies, that he has not presented evidence of any final agency decision. Therefore, because he has not yet exhausted his administrative remedies, Uvarov's complaint is

premature.

"Plaintiff requested the return of his passport in July 2020. The emails from the Los Angeles asylum office indicate that they are processing his request," said Manglona.

Additionally, Manglona pointed out that the U.S. and its agencies enjoy sovereign immunity and can only be sued in court to the extent that the U.S. Congress has waived that immunity.

Manglona also denied Uvarov's request to proceed without paying fees and costs to file his claims in both lawsuits.

According to his motion, Uvarov is alleging personal injury against ICE and is demanding \$80,000 in damages and the return of his passport.

Uvarov claims that ICE seized his passport on June 7, 2018, and never made any good faith effort to set him

up for an asylum interview. Uvarov also accused ICE of violating the 1967 international protocol on refugee rights. He said the incident has caused him mental harm, depression, and deprivation.

Uvarov, a citizen of the Russian Federation, arrived on Saipan as a tourist on Nov. 29, 2017, and applied for political asylum at the local ICE office.

TRUMP

From Page 1

ease expert widens while the nation sees its most alarming outbreak of the coronavirus since the spring.

Speaking at a campaign rally in Opa-locka, Florida, Trump expressed frustration that the surging cases of the virus that has killed more than 230,000 Americans so far this year remains prominent in the news, sparking chants of "Fire Fauci" from his supporters.

"Don't tell anybody but let me wait until a little bit after the election," Trump replied to thousands of supporters just after midnight Monday, adding he appreciated their "advice."

Trump's comments on Fauci less than 48 hours before polls close all but assure that his handling of the pandemic will remain front and center heading into Election Day.

It's the most direct Trump has been in suggesting he was serious about trying to remove Fauci from his position. He has previously expressed that he was concerned about the political blowback of removing the popular and respected doctor before Election Day.

Trump's comments come after Fauci leveled his sharpest criticism yet of the White House's response to the coronavirus and Trump's public assertion that the nation is "rounding the turn" on the virus.

Fauci has grown outspoken that Trump has ignored his advice for containing the virus, saying he hasn't spoken with Trump in more than a month. He has raised alarm that the nation was heading for a challenging winter if more isn't done soon to slow the spread of the disease.



Fauci

In an interview with the Washington Post this weekend, Fauci cautioned that the U.S. will have to deal with "a whole lot of hurt" in the weeks ahead due to surging coronavirus cases.

Fauci said the U.S. "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" to stem rising cases as more people gather indoors during the colder fall and winter months. He says the U.S. will need to make an "abrupt change" in public health precautions.

Fauci added that he believed Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden "is taking it seriously from a public health perspective," while Trump is "looking at it from a different perspective." Fauci, who's on the White House coronavirus task force, said that perspective emphasizes "the economy and reopening the country."

EXERCISE

From Page 1

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez assured that they are prepared for today's general elections.

Voting will start at 7am and end at 7pm. Tabulation and counting of ballots will follow at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"Come out and vote please. Exercise your right," Villagomez said.

According to CEC, there are 18,526 active registered voters in the CNMI.

Precinct 6 or Tinian and Aguiguan has 1,724 registered voters, while Precinct 7 or Rota has 1,931.

Yesterday was the last day of early voting.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who availed of early voting process Saturday, urged people to exercise their right to vote.

Villagomez reminded voters to bring with them a photo identification card as they will be required to present that in order to be issued a ballot at the polling sites.

She also asked voters to wear face masks.

Villagomez said that, although the last election in 2018 was difficult due to the electric power issue after Super Typhoon Yutu's massive destruction, this year too is not easy as CEC and voters have to meet safety protocols imposed by the COVID-19 Task Force.

"There are a lot of...requirements from the COVID-19 task force to follow," she said.

Villagomez said they never had these things in previous elections; things like constantly sanitizing poll-

ing places, observing social distancing, and wearing face masks.

"We've suffocated [by] the mask. We just get used to it," she said.

Villagomez described this year's election as something extraordinary. "We have to observe social distancing. We cannot hug family members when we see them. We have to abide with the COVID-19 task force [rules]," she said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) is a sure winner as he is running unopposed for a seventh term.

Voters will decide whether to retain on the bench Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

At this year's election, the two-political party system is alive again in the CNMI as the NMI Democratic Party has 18 candidates, which is a first time in over four decades.

Today, voters will decide whether to allow the NMI Republican Party to dominate the election again, or elect the Democratic Party's bets that include nine women running for the Legislature, which is historic in the Commonwealth.

For Saipan Senate, Sen. Sixto Kaipat Igisomar, who is seeking re-election under the Republican Party, will square off against former Labor secretary Edith E. Deleon Guerrero of the Democratic Party.

For Tinian Senate, it's a battle between Karl Rosario King-Nabors (Republican) and Jose Pangelinan Cruz (Democrat).

For Rota Senate, former Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Dennis

James Mendiola (Republican) is challenging the re-election bid of seasoned politician Sen. Paul A. Manglona independent.

For Saipan House of Representatives, it's a crowded race in Precinct 1 as there are 14 candidates battling for six positions.

For precincts 2 and 4, there are two positions and four candidates each.

For Precinct 3, voters will vote for no more than six, but there are 10 candidates, including House Speaker Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan).

For Precinct 5, there are two positions and five candidates.

For Precinct 6 or Tinian, voters will select between Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas of the Republican Party and Frederick Arend Dela Cruz, a Democrat.

For Precinct 7 or Rota, it's a battle between Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Barrie C. Toves, a Republican.

For Saipan Municipal Council, Ana Demapan Castro and Antonia Manibusan Tudela are sure winners as there are three positions.

For Tinian Municipal Council, there are five candidates for three positions.

For Rota Municipal Council, it's a crowded race as six are running for three positions.

For Board of Education representing Saipan, there are two positions but three candidates—attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, Maisie Bermudes Tenorio, and Gregory Pat Borja.

There is no candidate for BOE representing Tinian. But for BOE representing Rota, Herman Manglona Atalig is the only candidate for the lone position.

7,334

From Page 1

last Saturday and yesterday, which was the last day of early voting.

Villagomez described the early voting process in the Commonwealth as having gone smoothly.

The total number of voters yesterday was not available as of press time.

CEC election clerk assistant Edward Seman Bai said that, as of Saturday, there were 6,193 Saipan voters, and 85 Northern Islands voters.

Bai said 139 Tinian voters voted on Saipan, while 374 on Tinian. He said 146 Rota voters voted on Saipan

and 397 voted on Rota.

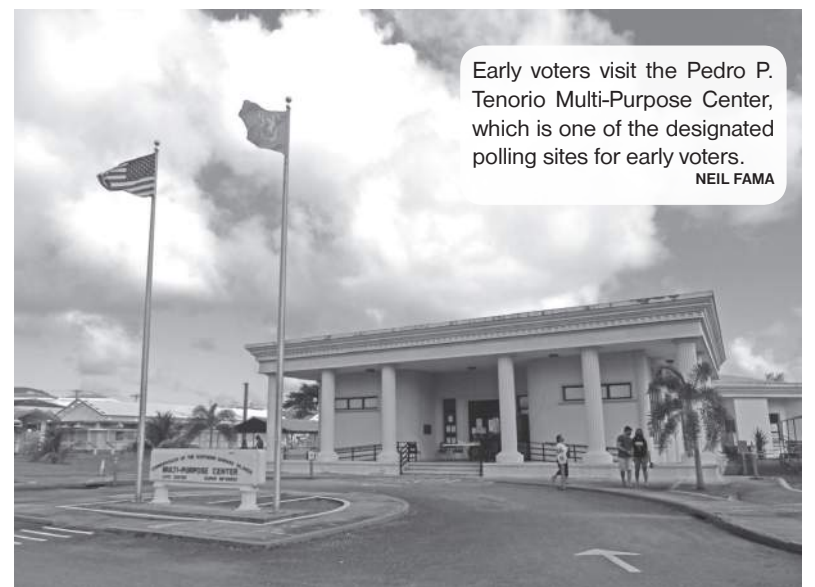
On Saipan, 2124 voted at Precinct 1; 698 at Precinct 2; 486 at Precinct 3A; 1,148 at Precinct 3B; 565 at Precinct 4; and 1,172 at Precinct 5.

The 21-day early voting on Saipan started last Oct. 13, while early voting on Tinian and Rota commenced last Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Early voting started slow. As of last Oct. 24, there were only 3,570 voters who availed of the early voting process in four polling places on Saipan.

There are 18,526 active registered voters in the CNMI.

Tinian and Aguiguan have 1,724, while Rota has 1,931. The Northern Islands have 162 voters.



Early voters visit the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, which is one of the designated polling sites for early voters.
NEIL FAMA

2 WOMEN

From Page 1

the government does not allege a common scheme, plan, or conspiracy," he said.

In addition, Naraja said the government did not allege that Laniyo's strike/bite caused the death of the victim and that Fitial failed to provide adequate treatment based on Laniyo's alleged strike/bite.

"There also isn't an allegation that the two defendants planned to hurt the victim. There seems to be no logical relationship between the two events besides having the same victim," he said.

Because of the arguments made by the defense, Naraja said he was persuaded to grant the motion to sever the two cases. Naraja noted that the prosecution did not oppose this and had left the matter to the court's discretion.

Fitial's lawyer, assistant public defender Vina Seelam, filed the motion to sever, which Laniyo agreed to.

In their motion, Fitial and Laniyo stated that they are not accused of committing offenses arising out of common acts or transactions, and the only similarity is the victim.

The two women were arrested in the death of a 3-year-old boy in March 2020. The government charged both Laniyo and Fitial with

child abuse.

Laniyo's alleged abuse happened on March 12 when Laniyo allegedly hit the child, either with a tree branch, a broom, or her hand, or that she might have bitten him. Laniyo, who is related to Fitial, told police that the child was without fear and was very naughty. Laniyo admitted she had spanked him with a tree branch to discipline him.

Fitial, the child's mother, allegedly failed to provide medical care for her son last March 13, 2020, resulting in his death.

Fitial told police that the boy had been ill and was given ibuprofen, which he vomited, before he was observed to have become stiff.

Dr. Philip Dauterman of the Commonwealth Health Center stated that the cause of death was obstruction of the airway due to pharyngitis and tracheitis, contributed by peritonitis due to gastroenteritis.

The pathologist said the boy's symptoms, which would have been vomiting, appetite loss, diarrhea, fever, and sore throat, would have been obvious to any reasonable parent or guardian and a cause for concern.

Dauterman said the child was effectively dead when he was brought to the hospital's ER.

The Department of Public Safety reported that the boy's injuries were consistent with abuse.

Apatang: We have to be careful

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the number of COVID-19 cases continuing to rise due to incoming passengers who test positive, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang believes that opening up the CNMI's borders would require the Commonwealth to be careful and not get tourist from hot spots, where COVID-19 cases appear to be spiking.

Apatang acknowledges that, although the CNMI does want to see tourists coming in, it has to be sure "that we don't get tourist from hot spot areas, look at the reports on the countries that surround the CNMI and not allow them to come in if their number of infections appear to be going up.

Apatang said that the Torres-Palacios administration, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the COVID-19 Task Force are doing a "super job" and he praised the protocols in place for entry point testing and catching the passengers who are positive for COVID-19. "We're very lucky because we catch them and put them in quarantine until they're recovered, but if we allow those people in the hot spot areas to come

in, we are in trouble," said Apatang. He added that the CNMI's own neighboring island, Guam, is still trying to control the COVID-19 situation, yet still see quite a number of cases.

Apatang also appreciates that the community is cooperating, adding that everyone appears to be wearing masks when going out to the store or the restaurant. "If we take care of ourselves we'll be okay, and hopefully, this virus will go away," he said.

Apatang sees the past fiscal year 2020 as "one to remember for years to come." The Saipan municipality was forced to let go of 32 employees. Thanks to a Technical Assistance Program grant his office obtained from the Office of Insular Affairs, they were able to bring back 11 employees. "We were very fortunate that we got the TAP grant to help us out and bring these guys back, so we can continue to provide services to our community," he said.

Apatang stated that the individuals who are on the TAP grant are on 80 hours and will be at the mayor's office until December. However, he is looking for ways to have them continue their jobs after that.



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CBMA to create the CNMI's first PTAC

The CNMI Bureau of Military Affairs has been awarded \$498,000 in order to establish the CNMI's first Procurement Technical Assistance Center in the CNMI, under the aegis of the Defense Logistics Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense.

This award marks a first for the Department of Defense in providing these resources directly to a government agency for management and operation of a PTAC program.

"PTACs around the nation and in our region have tremendous potential in supporting the growth of small businesses and connecting them with the resources needed to bid on and secure federal government contracts," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "The establishment of a PTAC program in the CNMI to provide opportunities for our businesses here comes at a critical time in our history and will aid in targeting federal resources to

the entrepreneurs supporting the revitalization and recovery of our economy and our workforce."

In previous years, PTAC support services were provided to CNMI businesses through an extension of the Guam PTAC operated by the University of Guam. The funding provided to the CBMA will provide technical assistance to businesses in the CNMI so they can compete on federal contracts, maximizing opportunities for small businesses to contribute to national security.

"This is a critical leap forward for our work in ensuring the proper and beneficial integration of military activities in the CNMI with those who call these islands home," said CBMA special assistant for Military Affairs, Glenna Sakisat-Palacios Reyes. "This program will provide direct jobs to our population and support even greater levels of

economic activity throughout the businesses primed and ready to take on the important effort of providing goods and services in support of our nation's military network."

For CBMA this grant award is a part of the larger effort to ensure the people of the CNMI are given the same opportunities for support that are available in communities around the nation. "With the increasing venues for contracting opportunities arising in the coming years, particularly those related to the development of the Tinian Divert and Exercises program, local entrepreneurs have the ability and are eager to compete," Reyes said, adding that the CNMI PTAC and the services provided through this grant award "will even the playing field and provide our islands the resources to be successful and grow against bidders from around the United States."

The Department of De-

fense is currently implementing a range of initiatives in the Commonwealth that will present federal contracting opportunities to help support the operational readiness of the nation's armed forces. Currently, the construction of the \$316 million Tinian Divert Airfield is underway.

Through the grant award, the CBMA will establish a physical presence in the CNMI, where it will provide one-on-one trainings, open seminars, conduct outreach to civic organizations to expand knowledge and technical skills related to bidding on federal government projects, extending services to Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The CBMA highlights its interest in expanding resources to a range of federal funding opportunities pointing to its recent success in coordinating Federal Emergency Management Agency "Industry Days," on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota where local

businesses were connected with resources to compete for FEMA-related projects in the CNMI.

"This is a new and focused effort to really take full advantage of the available resources and opportunities in our islands with the hope of expanding the gains and get a resurgence of our economy," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "We are putting more of our government resources to ensuring businesses and entrepreneurs have the ability to grow and succeed regardless of the global impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Commonwealth Development Authority has already promised the free use of space for the new PTAC, the Office of Grants Management will coordinate counseling services on how to register for business DUNS and SAM numbers, and the Department of Commerce will offer office space to engage in one-on-one counseling sessions with PTAC clients, access to

the small business library, the computer laboratory, and government and local businesses resource information.

"We are working in close collaboration with the Defense Logistics Agency to host a joint event in January 2021 when we open the Center to provide businesses in the CNMI a procurement overview of the types of products and services that the Defense Logistics Agency procures and how to sell to them," said Reyes. "We are also engaging with NAVFAC Marianas Small Business Office, under the direction of Rear Adm. John Adametz, commander of NAVFAC Pacific, for an upcoming outreach program to promote small business procurements and business opportunities under the Federal Acquisition Regulations."

For more information about the CNMI PTAC or information related to the work of the CNMI Bureau of Military Affairs, contact Reyes at glenna.reyes@gov.mp. (PR)

SSC to elect new board members

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2021-2022 board of directors in-person voting tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom in Garapan at 11am. Announcement of winners will also be held at the same meeting after votes are counted.

Eleven candidates from various businesses in the CNMI vying for five available board seats. They are David Bush of Hawaiian Rock Productions, Ciara Ada of Xerox Corp., Marcia Calvo of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters, Das Krishnan of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kevin McCale of Docomo Pacific, Janice Tenorio of IT&E CNMI, Shayne Villanueva of Assurance Brokers Inc. Saipan, Ron Smith of Angil Design, Inc., James Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, Joseph Guerrero of Naked Fish Bar & Grill Inc., and Michael Sheu of Hong Ye Trading Co. Ltd.

DAVE BUSH

Hawaiian Rock Products

Dave Bush has a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Golden Gate University in San Francisco and almost five decades of knowledge and experience in the construction industry. A Chamber member for five years now, he hopes to help the Chamber find ways to improve the interaction of the



business community with the government.

CIARA ADA

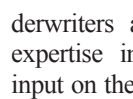
Xerox Corp.

Ciara Ada holds a degree in Health Information Technology from DeVry University and has worked in communications and technology companies such as AT&T and PTI (now IT&E), and Fry's Electronics. Her experience in these companies landed her the job at Xerox Corp. on Saipan in 2017. She is eager to serve her community, including organizations such as Marianas Young Professionals, Saipan Young Professionals, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and Life in the Son Christian Fellowship.

MARCIA CALVO

Calvo's Insurance Underwriters

Marcia Calvo is running for board re-election as she served on the SCC board of directors and as Events Committee chairperson for the past two years. She is the marketing and account executive of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters and her areas of expertise includes providing input on the health care, environmental and cultural matters that impact our islands.



DAS KRISHNAN

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

Das Krishnan has been an active member of the Chamber since 2008 and his work in the hospitality industry for over 20 years has been widely

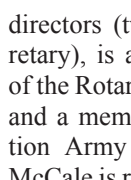


recognized in the successes of former Tinian Dynasty, Saipan Word Resort, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (soon to be Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan). If voted as a board member, Krishnan hopes to serve the Chamber and its members by actively supporting Chamber events and use his wide network and experience to help the Chamber accomplish its goals.

KEVIN MCCALE

Docomo Pacific

Account manager Kevin McCale of Docomo Pacific provides total telecommunication consultations and solutions for CNMI businesses and government agencies. He served previous terms on the SCC board of



directors (two years as secretary), is a former member of the Rotary Club of Saipan, and a member of the Salvation Army advisory board. McCale is running for a position on the board of directors because he aspires to bring honesty and integrity in representing the mission and vision of the SCC.

JANICE TENORIO

IT&E CNMI

Janice Tenorio has been giving her time both in the private sector as CNMI IT&E Customer Service & Govern-



ment Relation manager and public sector as chairperson of the 16th and 17th CNMI State Board of Education, which is the governing and policymaking body of the CNMI Public School System and held previous positions at the Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., CNMI Senate, and Northern Marianas Trades Institute. As a Chamber member, she is a former co-chair of SCC Events Committee and SCC Education Committee, and to date assists both SCC committees with their activities.

SHAYNE VILLANUEVA

Assurance Brokers Inc. Saipan

Operations manager Shayne Villanueva has been a member of the Chamber for four years and has served on the board for one term. In 2018, he was recognized as Saipan Young Professional of the Year and one of the 2019 Guam Business Journal's 40 Most Influential Young Business Persons under 40. Villanueva is active in the Chamber's Events Committees.



RON SMITH

Angil Design

A Chamber member for 20 years, Angil Design president Ron Smith previously served

two terms on the board of directors. Aside from being engaged in the SCC Government Relations Committee, Smith also lends his technical expertise to the Chamber. Smith is running for a board position because he believes that he can make a positive contribution to the board through strong consensus building and a significant contribution toward the concise formulation of board statements and policies.

JAMES ARENOVSKI

Island Training Solutions

James Arenovski has been a Chamber member since 1999, served as president in 2007 and 2008, chaired the Education and Small Business committees and is an incumbent board member who is running for re-election. He owns Delta Management Corp. and Island Training Solutions. In 2011 he was awarded SCC Businessperson of the Year and his company, Island Training Solutions, was awarded the Small Business of the Year in 2019.

JOE GUERRERO

Naked Fish Bar & Grill

Joe Guerrero of Naked Fish Bar & Grill is running for board re-election and is no stranger to serving the community. If elected for another term, Guerrero hopes to continue to contribute to



the Government Relations Committee by adding input on various legislation and public policies and regulations that affect our business community.

MICHAEL SHEU

Hong Ye Trading Co. Ltd.

Hong Ye Construction and Hong Ye Hardware manager Michael Unpingco Sheu has been a Chamber member since 2019. He is a former



recipient of the 2011 SCC Scholarship and finished Business Administration in Finance from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and he is also a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program. He is running for a board position to offer a different perspective and solutions on issues facing the CNMI, like supply chain and logistics, workforce sustenance and mobilization in the CNMI.

Besides the election, Patrick C. Guerrero from the Office of the Governor - CNMI Public Assistance Office, who served as the public assistance officer for typhoons Soudelor, Mangkhut, Yutu, and the Governor's authorized representative for the COVID-19, will be guest speaker and will talk about current recovery projects and another topic on how businesses can equip themselves when bidding on government contracts.

Alcohol ban on Election Day

Alcoholic sales are prohibited in the CNMI from 7am to 7pm on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020

According to a Monday notice from the CNMI Department of Commerce, through

the Division Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control, this alcoholic sales ban is pursuant to CNMI law: In accordance with 4 CMC, Subsection 5557(a), an on-sale or off-sale licensee shall not sell or serve

alcoholic beverages on any island where an election is in progress during the hours when the polls are required by law to be opened for voting, except as otherwise provided. This prohibition shall apply from 7am

to 7pm on Nov. 3, 2020.

Furthermore, in accordance with 4 CMC, Subsection 5557(b), the prohibition with respect to the sale or the serving of alcoholic beverages whenever an election is

in progress during the hours when the polls are required by law to be opened for voting shall not apply to on-sale licensees operating within the sterile passenger holding areas at commercial airports, hotels, hotel resorts, golf resorts, casino resorts, and any licensee

operating on Managaha island within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. To report a violation, contact the Department of Commerce, ABTC Division Hotline at (670) 285-1821. All calls received are handled confidentially and anonymously. **(PR)**

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in November. The first three webinars are perfect for companies that are new to federal contracting.

Webinars run from 10am to

11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Nov. 5 – Applying for a

DUNS Number & Registering in SAM – To sell your product or service to the federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. These registrations pose unique challenges to

Guam/CNMI based businesses. Tips and solutions for these challenges will be discussed.

■ Nov. 12 – Federal Contract Opportunities – Beta.sam.gov is the portal for federal contract opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to set up an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ Nov. 19 – Marketing to the Federal Government – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on “the list”.

■ Nov. 25 – How to Get Women Owned Small Business Certified – WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the new certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. **(PR)**

MHS team shines at Thespian Festival

Marianas High School students Bernice Shane Sabino, Ryan Kang, and James Park received top honors at the recent International Thespian Festival, which was held virtually (online) due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Sabino received a “Superior” rating in Solo Musical, and the top film recognition went to MHS animation filmmakers Kang and Park. This recognition marks the No. 1 film presenter in the festival and acknowledgment at the “The International Excellence Awards Showcase” at the close of the festival.

This is the second year members of the MHS filmmaking team has been recognized as the No. 1 in film. These fantastic filmmakers are coached by Jonel Alepuyo, who consistently brings out the best in our MHS Thespian Tech students.

This year, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the International Thespian Festival has had to shift to a virtual (online) platform.

To see the film, go to link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBg6zatmgiY&featu>



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bottom row (left to right): Ryan Kang and James Park. Second row (left to right): Jonathan Wolf, Bernice Sabino, and Jody Coloma. Third row (left to right): Betty Matson, Anastasia Shamanaeva, Macy Manzanera, Gio Sagana, and Vladimir Palma. Top row (left to right): Marianas High School principal Jonathan Aguon, vice principal Melanie Rdiall, Vivien Liu, Kristine Wolf, and Harold Easton. Not in the picture: Jonel Alepuyo, Katherine Magat, Carlyn Ada, and James Reyes

SCS students do well at NJSDA

Saipan Community School students gave a good account of themselves at the recent National Junior Speech & Debate Association competition. Below are the SCS students that placed:

■ Soledad Sablan for placing first in Poetry Masters, second in Storytelling A, and first in Duos with Lola Guerrero

■ Sheryne Yang for placing third in Impromptu, third in Storytelling A and fifth in Poetry Masters

■ Hilah Bacani for placing second in Dramatic Interpretation and third in Poetry Masters

■ Lola Guerrero for placing second in Poetry Masters and first in Duos with Soledad Sablan

■ Alfred JunHo Baek for placing second in Humorous Interpretation

■ Kassidy Camacho for placing third in Poetry and fifth in Storytelling A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Community School students who recently participated in the National Junior Speech & Debate Association pose at the school's chapel.

■ David Park for placing first in Prose, second in Impromptu, and second in Poetry

■ JeongBin Celine Park for placing first in Dramatic Interpretation, first in Impromptu, and first in Poetry

■ Joan JunHee Song for placing third in Prose

■ Hannah Chae for placing fifth in Poetry, and fourth in

Storytelling A

■ Joshua Yoo for placing fourth in Poetry, second in Prose, and first in Humorous Interpretation

■ Gabriela Bark for placing third in Humorous Interpretation and fourth in Prose A

■ Jason Kim for placing fourth in Poetry Masters and first in Storytelling A. **(PR)**

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/THC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Hold federal officials accountable for separating migrant families

The needless trauma inflicted on children in President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown remains alive. Court-appointed advocates cannot find the parents—still—for 545 children taken away from their families in 2017 and 2018. That includes about 60 who were under age 5 when forcibly separated.

That's years of growing, learning and loving missed out on, forever. That's a tragedy that must remain in this nation's consciousness. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Trump has tried to obfuscate the cruelty of the decision to separate families to deter migration. Information that trickled out for more than two years makes the harm, and its cause, clear.

An October court filing by American Civil Liberties Union lawyers shows why a full reckoning is overdue. Amid a pandemic and widespread violence in Central America and Mexico, court-appointed researchers are relying on incomplete federal records to search remote areas for missing parents.

The separations began in 2017, around El Paso, Texas. A secret Department of Homeland Security pilot program there took 1,500 children away from parents attempting to migrate to the U.S. When families crossed the border, the parents were detained for official proceedings. The children were spirited off to migrant shelters.

Trump officials expanded it to a full "zero tolerance" policy in May 2018. More than 2,700 children were taken into federal custody in that expansion. Weeks later, a federal judge ordered those families reunited.

But in January 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General revealed the separations were more extensive than the ruling. Further investigations found more than 5,500 children had been separated. Hundreds of these families have now endured years apart.

Deported parents were forced to choose between taking their children back to dangerous countries or permitting the government to assign them to "sponsors"—usually, relatives or family friends—in America. That's the limbo the 545 children went into. Federal officials said they were with sponsors in 2018 when the judge ordered children in custody reunited with their families. Today, advocates can only definitively say that 183 of the children are still in the U.S.; contact information is no longer valid for sponsors for the other 362. So even if their parents turn up and want the children back, they cannot easily be reunited.

The consequences resonate across the hemisphere. A father and son from Guatemala now living in Seattle sued in federal court Oct. 15 over their ordeal, alleging that the father was tricked onto a deportation flight from Texas after officials told him he'd get to see his son. The son, a teenager, was being held in a New York state shelter, where he alleges sexual abuse. They were kept separate for nine months, said attorney Matt Adams of the Northwest Immigrant Rights

See HOLD on next page



The only team with a record of proven leadership

We are in unprecedented times. The worst pandemic of our lifetime has set back the economies of the world, and the CNMI has not been immune to this. We must be able to work together to get through and beyond this pandemic and back to an economy of growth that supports jobs and opportunities for all.

One thing we can all be assured of is, despite the terrible natural disasters that have beset the Commonwealth over the last five years, our Republican leaders have in exemplary fashion expedited our recovery and navigated us back onto the path of economic growth. Our Republican leadership has repeatedly led our triumphant return to a growth economy.

After years of the worst economic depression in the CNMI's history, and typhoons and historic super typhoons, Republican leadership not only set us on a course for the return of our visitor industry and economic growth, they set us on a course of historic economic growth with the highest GDP in CNMI history, the fastest growing tourism market in the nation, the most new airlines, the highest median wage in CNMI history, the highest funding to education, and the most residents in employment in CNMI history. We saw investors return to the Commonwealth, new businesses open, new services and facilities for our people, the likes we have never seen in such a short period in the history of our Commonwealth.

Our Republican leadership also saw the Retirement Fund saved from insolvency and at the point where retirees were faced with the threat of losing their pensions. Our leaders worked with the courts on the Settlement Fund, which provided stability for the Fund and ensured that our retirees would not be under threat of losing their pensions any longer.

The CNMI Republican Party brings a clear history of responsive, capable, and proven leadership to the table. It is the reason our community has fared as the safest place in the United States during this pandemic. It is why, despite our geographic location, we were able to secure adequate personal protective equipment, and tests, and set up protocols to prevent the spread, and to see the opening of our Alternative Care Site, so that even in a worst-case scenario, our community will have access to the care they need.

That our Senate and House have been able to work together and work with the administration has been a critical component of our ability to tackle our issues and critical to decisions that

By JOHN PAUL SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John Paul "Pacho" Palacios Sablan is the floor leader of the House of Representatives in the 21st Legislature and is a representative of Precinct 2.



bear on our economy. Simply put, we would not have seen the incredible strides we have with the economy, our visitor industry, our median wage and quality of life, our public services, and our address to major natural disasters, had we not had the leadership and team effort we've seen between our Legislature and administration.

We need only look to our history. When our legislative houses have been divided, we have suffered gridlock and setback. When our Legislature and administration have been divided, we have suffered gridlock and setback. When our Legislature and administration have worked as a team to meet our challenges and chart our way forward, we have been met with record-breaking success.

One party in this election has been the party of divisiveness, unwilling to work together to meet those challenges, unwilling to work together to see our economy flourish, instead expending their energy and our resources trying to undermine efforts to grow the economy, undermine efforts to recover from disasters, and undermine efforts to get us safely through this pandemic. The Democrats are not a party of teamwork, they are a party of divisiveness and a Legislature torn by their continued antics will only serve to harm any efforts to get us safely out of this pandemic and get our economy back on track.

The stakes are too high for us to have a Legislature that is embroiled in political battles and that cannot function. Our CNMI Republican Party has repeatedly proven that it has the leadership and experience necessary to overcome every challenge. It is the only party that can claim that, and this is needed more than any other time in our history as a Commonwealth.

I humbly ask for your support for our Republican candidates in this election.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

6 common mistakes in real-estate contracts

For many people, a real-estate deal will be the biggest transaction they do that year—or ever. So, whether you're buying a first home, converting hard-earned savings into land or selling property that you inherited from family, it's important that the contracts surrounding the transaction are as good as the deal is important.

The first step in making sure that your real-estate contracts prevent headaches rather than create them is to hire an attorney. But don't just hire any attorney. They're not all the same. Some do many land transactions while others just dabble in real estate while focusing on other areas of law. So ask your attorney some questions and find out how familiar they are with real-estate transactions.

Once you've found the right help, here are six common issues to watch out for.

1 Missing effective date

The effective date is the date when the contract goes live. It's the date when responsibilities start and timelines begin. In other words, it's an important date. And yet I routinely see contracts without an effective date or where some but not all of the parties dated their signature.

Why does that happen? It depends. Sometimes people forget. Sometimes the signature block does not include a conspicuous spot for a date. But most often people just leave it blank. For example, many contracts lead with the effective date in the very first sentence. Usually it will say something like "This Agreement is dated—November 2020, and is between X and Y." It's written that way because whoever drafted the contract knew roughly when the contract would be signed and expected the signers to fill in the missing information once the exact date was set. Help the drafter out by filling in the date.

2 Forgetting parties

Contracts only bind the people who sign them. And CNMI land often has many partial owners. For example, there can be dozens of owners if the property never went through probate following the death of the person listed on the deed. If the contract misses one of these people, then bad things tend to happen. For example, if the unnamed party discovers the deal before it closes, then expect heated negotiations between the unnamed party (who is now upset and has the opportunity to spike

the deal) and everyone else. Meanwhile, if the omitted party emerges after the deal closes, then litigation becomes likely. At that point, either the buyer (or lessee) sues because they didn't receive what they bargained for or the unnamed party sues because everyone else got paid except for them.

3 Not including spousal consents

A variation on forgotten parties is the failure to include a spousal consent. Real-estate contracts involving a married seller (or lessor) should always have a spousal consent in which the spouse consents to the sale (or lease). That's true even if the spouse has absolutely no interest in the property.

Why? To give the buyer (or lessee) peace of mind. With a spousal consent, the buyer (or lessee) knows that the transaction is safe no matter what happens to the seller (or lessor's) marriage. But without a spousal consent, the buyer (or lessee) will always have to wonder if they may get dragged into divorce proceedings months or years later via claims that the transferring spouse improperly gave away the non-transferring spouse's share of the property.

4 Incorrect or incomplete party names

Identifying all of the parties is a must. But we also need to do it right. That means using legal names, not nicknames. For example, Tiger Woods' legal name is Eldrick Woods. So, he should sign contracts as Eldrick Woods or Eldrick "Tiger" Woods, not as Tiger Woods.

Similarly, if you (like many people in the CNMI) have a common family name, then you should include your middle initial or, ideally, your entire middle name when signing contracts. For instance, as of 2013 the U.S. had more than 25,000 people named John Smith. Each of them should include their middle names to avoid confusion.

And, of course, whether we use full names or not, we run into problems if the contract misspells someone's name. Fortunately, that normally can be fixed quickly by drafting an amendment flagging the typo and updating the spelling. But it can cause some heartburn if lenders or insurance companies are involved. So, it's best to double check before signing.

5 No contact information

Contact information may seem unimportant when a deal goes smoothly. But when problems arise, and you need to

FINE PRINT By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

give the other side an official notice. Assuming that a phone call or Facebook message will suffice is asking for trouble. Instead, the contract should spell out exactly what an official notice must look like. Historically, the preferred form of notice has been a letter addressed to a particular person at a specific address. But these days more and more contracts require emails sent to a specified email address.

6 Incomplete legal description

When transferring property, it feels easier to just write the lot number. For instance, Lot No. 012 A 345. But the contract should use the full legal description whenever possible. In other words, it should look something like this: Lot No. 012 A 345, Village, containing 1234 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in Cadastral Plat No. 012 A 00, the original of which was recorded 03 November 2020 under File No. 20-0011 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

At the same time, while it's essential that contracts formally transferring property should use the full legal description, preliminary contracts (such as the offer) don't necessarily need to do so. But they still need to be reasonably specific. For example, what happens if the preliminary contract lists the lot number but not the lot size and then it turns out that the property is smaller than the buyer expected? If the seller is reasonable, the price drops or the deal ends. But if the seller is not so reasonable, then expect a battle.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's not just hope for change. Make it happen

Here are factual, verifiable, and compelling reasons why we need to vote for Democrats:

First, how do we find ourselves in this dismal state and poor quality of life now? Because for 34 years, Republican leaders have deceived our people, misleading us with what they consider as the appropriate advancement of our economy: garment and casino.

Second, our Commonwealth has not significantly and progressively improved since 1978. In the '80s and '90s the disastrous garment corruption scandals disrupted our lives and maligned our dignity. Twenty years later the casino fiasco not only challenged our tolerance but our conscience.

Third, for the true advancement of our islands to be realized, we must see the equity and inclusivity for all, especially for the underserved.

Fourth, one must ask the question: Are we as a community much better off today than we were in the past two decades? While some may answer with yes, I can assure you that many would answer with "no." Why? Because the standard of living to most of our people in the Commonwealth has either stagnated or regressed. Why? Because while the elite and well-off continue to rise in their lifestyles, the poor and neglected continue to suffer.

Fifth, while many in the Republican leadership claim to have advanced the CNMI, the only real advancement happening are those businesses who have come to prosper and take advantage of the opportunities, all the while our people have been neglected, especially if you are not a member of the inner circle, designed by the Republicans who control these businesses.

Sixth, more fundamentally, the quality of life for majority of our people in this Commonwealth continue to regressively dis-

appoint all of us. Instead of leading us to the "promised land" and give us hope, the Republican elite control the meaningful future, reserved only for their few.

Seventh, another endemic situation that is happening is the unprecedented large number of our own people moving out of the islands due to corruptions, abuse of power, gross misuse of financial resources, and rampant unethical acts. This statement is not only factual, it is supported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation by its action in issuing a federal subpoena on Gov. Torres. No one is served with a subpoena, be it local or federal, without probable cause.

Eight, federal investigation of corruptions, fraud related crimes and malfeasances in governments are actively ongoing.

Ninth, besides these concerning activities above, the draining of our talented and educated youth leaving the islands because of the lack of opportunity and the corrupt system of hiring based on lineage and who you know devalues and demeans educational pursuit.

Tenth, Gov. Torres deceived the youth of the Commonwealth for not living up to his pledge to be the ethical and moral leader he assures them he would be.

Eleventh, Gov. Torres' deep involvement in the casino scam impugned his integrity as an honorable leader, which puts the allegiance of our citizens unnecessarily divided. When a leader loses credibility among his citizens for his destructive behavior through arrogance, his ability to govern effectively is irreparably damaged.

These are compelling reason why I am pleading with our citizens to vote for change by electing Democrats to the Legislature. In return, voters are being assured to expect that Democrats will bring a different and exciting approach to governance and how

they look at problem-solving methodology. From disaster to opportunity, from secrecy to public disclosure, from "can't be done" to "will find a way," from shortcuts to deliberate, from negligence to prudence, and from irresponsibility to accountability.

I know that character, moral leadership, and integrity are values we cannot put aside. If we pass these values to our children by electing Democrats to safeguard and brighten their future, our Commonwealth will be better with it and so would our children.

There are thousands of fathers and mother out in our community who would do anything to protect the future of their children. Let this election be the most important opportunity to change the political culture of destruction and mistrust to a future of divine purpose. How can we not do it for our children?

Daniel O. Quitugua

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

HOLD

From Page 8






Project. Four more families are working with the agency toward filing similar cases, he said.

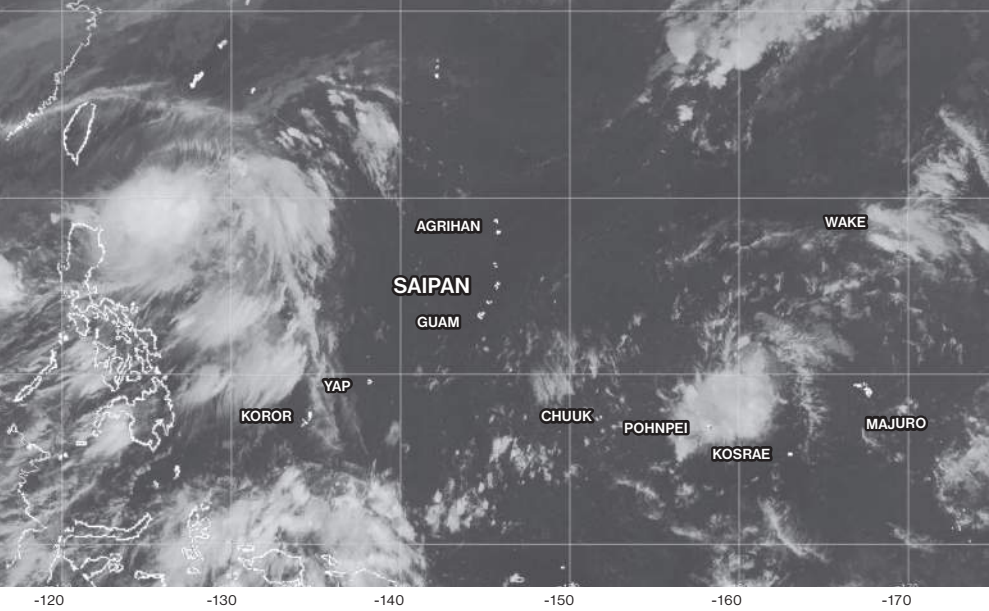
"We should never forget that at the end of the day, these are still human beings," Adams said. "Shoving aside human rights to send a political message puts us in history right in line with the worst offenders of human rights."

America can and must do better.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows only a few showers passing through the Marianas waters. Satellite shows a trade-wind disturbance well to the east-southeast which could approach the Marianas around Thursday. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet composed of a swell from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:06 AM	7:42 PM
Wednesday	-	8:58 AM	8:28 PM
Thursday	-	9:50 AM	9:18 PM
Friday	-	10:43 AM	10:12 PM
Saturday	-	11:35 AM	11:07 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	55° / 32°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 45°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	69° / 61°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	68° / 55°	
Paris	Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	70° / 45°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°	
Seoul	Showers	64° / 48°	
Tokyo	Showers	64° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	74° / 57°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:57 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.16	
9:48 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69	
3:24 PM	LOW TIDE	1.01	
8:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.63	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO GUAM				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Google ad costs, not its alleged monopoly, irks businesses

NEW YORK (AP)—When asked about Google, Bryan Clayton voices a familiar lament among small business owners.

“You keep getting squeezed further and further down the search results page,” says Clayton, CEO of GreenPal, a company that operates an app to help homeowners find lawn care. “As a startup, you don’t have a million-dollar advertising budget.”

The Justice Department sued Google on Oct. 20 for anticompetitive behavior, saying the company’s dominance in online search and advertising harms rivals and consumers.

Owners such as Clayton have a different beef. What’s unfair about Google, they say, is the way it gives the greatest prominence in search results to the companies that spend the most on advertising.

Companies covet the top spots in Google search results—the first page of rankings, and the top of subsequent pages. But if too many companies vie for one of these spots, the cost can jump out of reach for a small business, just like the price for prime time TV commercials.

Google controls about 90% of global internet searches. The Justice Department sued Google Tuesday, alleging it uses monopoly power in search to squelch competition. Business owners’ concerns about the cost of advertising aren’t directly related to the government’s lawsuit, although the company’s dominance of the search market has been alleged to be a factor in driving up the



price to buy ads in its vast digital marketing network.

But even if prices were lower than they are now, larger companies with more money to spend, in theory, could always outbid smaller businesses vying for the prime advertising spots on Google.

Businesses have two main ways of trying to get their listings high in Google rankings. One is to buy an ad that’s seen at the top of the search result pages; the cost for the ads depends on how often a computer user clicks on the ad and how much a company is willing to pay per click. The

more a company can pay, the more likely it will get a prized spot in search results. Google has different types of ads, and whether an ad appears locally or nationally can also affect pricing. So can the time of day an ad appears.

There’s also what’s called paid search, where companies bid on keywords to get a higher ranking. For example, a sporting goods store might bid on words like “baseball” and “hockey” in hopes of landing higher in search results and being more easily seen by customers looking for equipment for those sports. The problem busi-

nesses face is they can be outbid by companies with deeper pockets. So the sporting goods store that can only afford to pay \$2 a word can lose out to stores able to pay \$10.

Mark Aselstine has spent as much as \$30,000 a year on Google advertising, but he’s

not sure his wine gift basket company will be able to afford Google ads this holiday season. He expects an already competitive time of year to be even more intense as more wine retailers seek customers over the internet due to the coronavirus outbreak and use

EU faces knotty trade fights with US—no matter who wins

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—After winemakers, cookie bakers, and olive growers wound up as collateral damage, Europe is closely watching the U.S. presidential election, waiting to see whether the next four years will mean more tariff wars under Republican President Donald Trump or a shift toward less confrontational negotiation under Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

It’s no secret that European officials are more in tune with Biden’s stated intent to improve transatlantic relations. But no matter who wins, fundamental disputes that erupted—or in some cases, merely worsened—under Trump may not be quick or easy to resolve.

In particular, Europe’s push for digital taxes on American tech behemoths like Google and Amazon could mean friction no matter who is in the White House. Likewise with the dispute over government support for Europe’s aircraft maker Airbus and America’s Boeing, which dates to well before Trump. And don’t forget Europe’s longstanding ban on U.S. chicken treated with chlorine.

Chad P. Bown, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute

for International Economics, says that even in friendlier times, “there are bilateral irritants, there always have been and there always will be. It’s the nature of trade, they’re going to be there—and they have to be resolved.”

And that is fraught with consequences for the 16 million workers on both sides whose jobs are supported by transatlantic trade, the biggest such relationship in the global economy. Tit-for-tat tariffs over the past four years have affected companies and people making and selling a whole host of goods.

Among them are German makers of sweet biscuits, who have been sideswiped by tariffs imposed by the U.S. after the World Trade Organization ruled European governments had broken the rules with subsidies for Airbus. The German confectionery association, known by its German acronym BDSI, says that affected producers have lost 30% of their export volume in the first half of this year.

“The small and mid-size, mostly family run enterprises have overnight and through no fault of their own lost a substantial market, which

AP
In this file photo dated Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, a man using a mobile phone walks past Google offices in New York.

Google advertising to make themselves more visible.

“I don’t think we’ll run a single Google ad this year. I suspect it will be well out of our price range,” says Aselstine, owner of Uncorked Ventures, based in El Cerrito, California.

If Aselstine can’t afford Google, he has alternatives. Microsoft’s Bing search engine, cheaper but not as popular among computer users, is one. Aselstine can also increase his use of Google’s unpaid search. Like the paid version, he’d seek to use keywords in his ads that prospective customers are likely to search for; depending on the words he chooses, he might get a good ranking, although it will still fall below ads and paid listings.

R.J. Huebert, who buys Google ads on behalf of the law firms, manufacturers and a credit union that are his clients, also sees prices going up because of the competition among advertisers, but the owner of HBT Digital Consulting says, “I think it’s the cost of doing business.”

they built up and with great effort over decades,” said Andreas Nickenig, chair of the fine baked goods sector of the organization.

Tariffs have also hit French, German, Spanish and UK wine as well as raspberry and lingonberry jam from France and Germany, for instance. Matters could escalate if the EU imposes tariffs on U.S. products in retaliation for tax breaks given in the past to Boeing.

Trump has used strong language about Europe’s trade surplus with the U.S., saying that the EU is “worse than China” and “has been treating us very badly” with “barriers that are incredible.”

Some observers have expressed the hope that Biden could send a message by dropping the tariffs that Trump slapped on European steel and aluminum, enraging the Europeans and other allies by calling their metals a threat to U.S. national security. The so-called Article 232 proceeding both hurts European producers and raises the cost of steel for American companies. Europe retaliated by raising tariffs on U.S.-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans.

Starbucks targets new market, in coffee exporting Laos

BANGKOK (AP)—Starbucks said Monday it plans to open an outlet in Laos as it expands its network of more than 10,000 stores in Asian countries.

The company said it plans to open the shop in the Lao capital Vientiane by next summer.

The outlet will be operated by Coffee Concepts (Laos) Ltd., a part of Hong Kong-based Maxim’s Caterers Ltd. Starbucks said in a statement that it intends to use its global scale to have a positive impact and career opportunities in the impoverished, landlocked country bordered by Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and China.

“We are pleased to introduce the Starbucks brand into Laos, which further builds on our 20 year relationship with Starbucks to grow the coffee

industry across Asia,” said Michael Wu, Chairman and Managing Director, Maxim’s Caterers Limited.

Many Laotians drink powdered coffee drinks that include milk and sugar, as is true across much of Asia, but the country of 7.2 million is a coffee exporter and has its own artisanal coffee roasters and shops.

Before the coronavirus pandemic hit, Laos was drawing growing numbers of foreign tourists, with more than 4 million visiting in 2018. Local incomes have been rising, but still average around \$300 a month.

The company said in a statement that it intends to take a “locally relevant approach” for its customers, both tourists and Laotians.

“We will take a thoughtful approach to driving sustainable growth in Laos and look

forward to contributing to the country’s vibrant coffee culture,” Starbucks said.

Starbucks said it was monitoring the coronavirus situation but is still aiming at an opening in summer 2021.

Laos, a landlocked country bordered by Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and China, has so far reported only 24 COVID-19 infections, according to a tally kept by the Johns Hopkins University.

Such records are thought to understate the actual number of cases due to testing issues and large numbers of asymptomatic coronavirus cases. But pandemic precautions are severely limiting travel in the region.

“We will work closely with local health authorities, as we do in all markets, making decisions with the health of our partners and customers top of mind,” Starbucks said.

Nation

Campaign draws to a close with US facing a crossroads

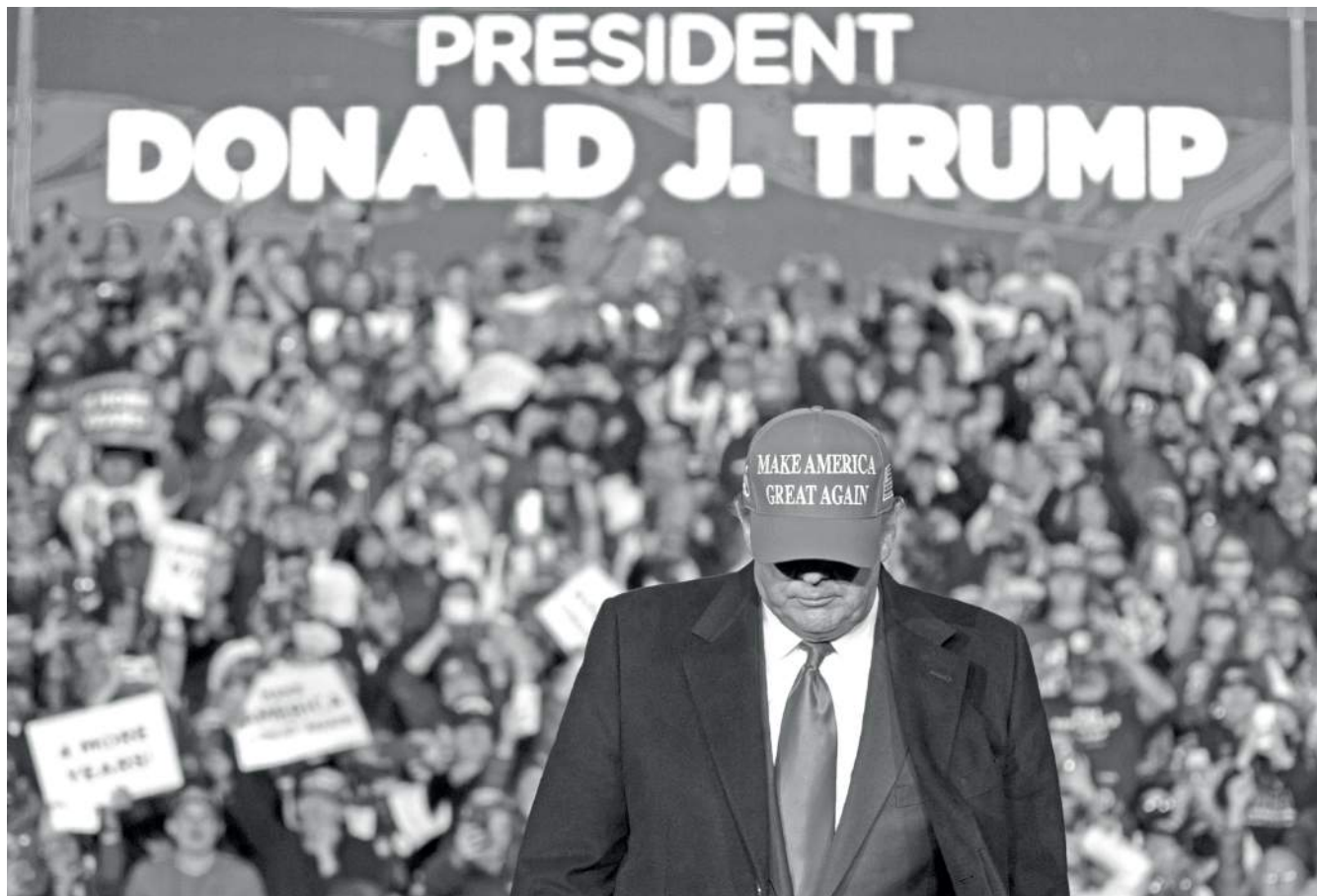
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden have one last chance to make their case to voters in critical battleground states on Monday, the final full day of a campaign that has laid bare their dramatically different visions for tackling the nation's pressing problems and for the office of the presidency itself.

The candidates are seeking to lead a nation at a crossroads, gripped by a historic pandemic that is raging anew in nearly every corner of the country and a reckoning over race. More than 93 million people have already voted and each campaign insists it has a pathway to victory, though Biden's options for picking up the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win are more plentiful. Trump is banking on a surge of enthusiasm from his most loyal supporters.

The president's final day has him sprinting through five rallies, from North Carolina to Wisconsin. Biden, meanwhile, was devoting most of his time to Pennsylvania, where a win would leave Trump with an exceedingly narrow path. Biden was also dipping into Ohio, a show of confidence in a state where Trump won by 8 percentage points four years ago.

Heading into the closing 24 hours, Trump and Biden each painted the other as unfit for office and described the next four years in near apocalyptic terms if the other were to win.

"The Biden plan will turn



AP
President Donald Trump arriving for a campaign rally at Richard B. Russell Airport, Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, in Rome, Ga.

America into a prison state locking you down while letting the far-left rioters roam free to loot and burn," Trump thundered Sunday at a rally in Iowa, one of the five he held in battleground states.

Biden said America was on the verge of putting "an end to a presidency that's fanned the flames of hate."

"When America is heard, I believe the message is going to be clear: It's time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home," Biden said in Philadelphia, the biggest city in a state that could decide the

presidency. "We're done with the chaos, the tweets, the anger, the hate."

As the candidates close out the campaign, the pandemic, which has killed more than 230,000 Americans and cost nearly 20 million to lose jobs, reached a new peak in infection rates, threatening yet another blow to lives and livelihoods of voters.

The election caps an extraordinary year that began with Trump's impeachment, the near collapse of Biden's candidacy during the crowded Democratic primary and then

was fully reshaped by the coronavirus outbreak.

A record number of votes have already been cast, through early voting or mail-in ballots, which could lead to delays in their tabulation. Trump has spent months claiming without evidence that the votes would be ripe for fraud while refusing to guarantee that he would honor the election result.

In the starkest terms yet, Trump on Sunday threatened litigation to stop the tabulation of ballots arriving after Election Day. As soon as

polls closed in battlegrounds such as Pennsylvania, Trump said, "we're going in with our lawyers."

It was unclear precisely what Trump meant. There is already an appeal pending at the Supreme Court over the counting of absentee ballots in Pennsylvania that are received in the mail in the three days after the election.

The state's top court ordered the extension and the Supreme Court refused to block it, though conservative justices expressed interest in taking up the propriety of the three

added days after the election. Those ballots are being kept separate in case the litigation goes forward. The issue could assume enormous importance if the late-arriving ballots could tip the outcome.

Under the shadow of possible legal battles, Pennsylvania loomed as most important battleground on the map.

For Biden, who lives in neighboring Delaware, Pennsylvania has long been the focus of his campaign, a bulwark to block Trump from securing the electoral votes needed for reelection. Both he and his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, and their spouses will crisscross the state on Monday.

But Biden's other travel telegraphed his campaign's hope to deliver a knockout blow to Trump that would make any Pennsylvania legal challenges essentially irrelevant.

Biden added a late stop to Ohio, a state where Trump once had a sizable lead and can't win without. That came on the heels of the ticket's pushes into other formerly reliable Trump strongholds like Iowa and Texas, as well as Georgia, where the Democrats' most popular surrogate, former President Barack Obama, was set to campaign Monday.

A vast swath of West Texas has been without an abortion clinic for more than six years. Planned Parenthood plans to change that with a health center it opened recently in Lubbock.

It's a vivid example of how abortion-rights groups are striving to preserve nationwide access to the procedure even as a reconfigured Supreme Court—with the addition of conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett—may be open to new restrictions.

Planned Parenthood has made recent moves to serve more women in Missouri and Kentucky, and other groups are preparing to help women in other Republican-controlled states access abortion if bans are imposed.

"Abortion access in these states now faces its gravest ever threat," said Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood's president. She said the new health center in Lubbock "is an example of our commit-

Supreme Court changes fuel moves to protect abortion access

ment to our patients to meet them where they are."

The clinic opened on Oct. 23 in a one-story building that had been a medical office and was renovated after Planned Parenthood purchased it. To avoid protests and boycotts that have beset some previous expansion efforts, Planned Parenthood kept details, including the clinic's location, secret until the opening was announced.

Planned Parenthood says the health center will start providing abortions—via surgery and medication—sometime next year. Meanwhile, it is offering other services, including cancer screenings, birth control and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

Planned Parenthood closed its previous clinic in Lubbock, a city of 255,000 people, in 2013 after the Texas Legislature slashed funding for

family planning services and imposed tough restrictions on abortion clinics.

That law led to the closure of more than half the state's 41 abortion clinics before the Supreme Court struck down key provisions in 2016. There were no clinics left providing abortion in a region of more than 1 million people stretching from Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle south to Lubbock and the oil patch cities of Odessa and Midland.

Women in Lubbock faced a 310-mile (500-kilometer) drive to the nearest abortion clinic in Fort Worth.

Anti-abortion activists have been mobilizing to prevent the return of abortion services to Lubbock—and are not giving up even with the new clinic's opening.

"Lubbock must not surrender to the abortion industry," said Kimberlyn Schwartz, a

West Texas native who attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock and is now communications director for Texas Right to Life.

Her organization has backed a petition drive trying to persuade the City Council to pass an ordinance declaring Lubbock a "sanctuary city for the unborn." Abortion opponents hope that designation would lead to either enforcement efforts or lawsuits seeking to block abortion services.

Thus far, the City Council has declined to adopt the ordinance, but activists say they have enough signatures to place it on the ballot in a local referendum.

Texas is one of several red states where Planned Parenthood has sought to expand abortion access. Earlier this year, its health center in Louisville, Kentucky, began providing abortions after obtaining

a license from the newly installed administration of Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear.

For the previous four years, anti-abortion Republican Gov. Matt Bevin's administration refused to issue a license. The change doubled the number of abortion providers in Kentucky from one to two.

Dr. Kara Cadwallader, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for Kentucky and Indiana, said the resumption of abortion services in Louisville had gone smoothly. Anti-abortion protesters routinely appear outside the building, she said, but they were a steady presence even when the center did not provide abortions.

She and her colleagues are bracing for a new wave of anti-abortion legislation from Kentucky's Legislature, where the GOP holds enough seats to override possible ve-

toes from Beshear.

"We'll once again be under siege," Cadwallader said.

In October 2019, Planned Parenthood's affiliate in St. Louis opened a large new health center in Fairview Heights, Illinois—about 17 miles (27 kilometers) from its St. Louis clinic. Illinois, where Democrats hold power, has not sought to curtail abortion, and the clinic was intended to provide an extra option for women from Missouri and other nearby Republican-governed states with multiple restrictions.

Missouri, for example, bars the use of telemedicine for abortion services, a policy that has sharply limited the number of medication abortions. Dr. Colleen McNicholas, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for reproductive health services in the St. Louis region, has made clear that medication abortion by telemedicine is available in Illinois. (AP)

Asia

Super typhoon lashes PH, killing at least 10

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A super typhoon blew into the eastern Philippines with disastrous force Sunday, killing at least 10 people and triggering volcanic mudflows that engulfed about 150 houses before weakening as it blew away from the country, officials said.

Typhoon Goni blasted into the eastern island province of Catanduanes at dawn from the Pacific with sustained winds of 225 kilometers (140 miles) per hour and gusts of 280 kph (174 mph), threatening some provinces still recovering from a deadly typhoon that hit a week ago.

Goni barreled through densely populated regions and threatened to sideswipe Manila, which shut down its main airport, but shifted southward Sunday night and spared the capital, the government weather agency said.

At least nine people were killed in the hard-hit province of Albay, including a father and son. Villagers fled to safety as the typhoon approached, but the two apparently stayed put in the community in Guinobatan town where about 150 houses were inundated by volcanic mudflow.

"The child was found 15 kilometers (9 miles) away," Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara told DZMM radio, adding



Strong waves batter the coast of Sorsogon province, central Philippines as a typhoon locally known as Goni hits the country on Sunday Nov. 1, 2020.

that the boy was swept away by mudflows and found in the next town.

He did not say whether there were any other residents trapped by the rampaging mudflows in the community and added that downed communications made it hard for people to communicate. The Office of Civil Defense reported that three Guinobatan residents were missing, but it was not immediately clear if they were from the mudflow-hit community.

The other deaths in Albay included a villager who was pinned by a fallen tree. One person was killed in Catanduanes province.

Ricardo Jalad, who heads the government's disaster-response agency, had feared

that the typhoon could wreak major damage due to its enormous force. The Philippine weather agency reinforced those concerns, saying that within 12 hours after the typhoon's landfall, people could face "catastrophic, violent winds and intense to torrential rainfall."

Residents were warned of possible landslides, massive flooding, storm surges of up to 5 meters (16 feet) and powerful winds that can blow away shanties. But after hitting a mountain range and repeatedly slamming into coastal provinces, the typhoon gradually weakened, although it remained potentially deadly as it blew out into the South China Sea, forecasters said.

Thai king and queen take to street to meet adoring royalists

BANGKOK (AP)—Under increasing pressure from protesters demanding reforms to the monarchy, Thailand's king and queen met Sunday with thousands of adoring supporters in Bangkok, mixing with citizens in the street after attending a religious ceremony inside the Grand Palace.

Crowds of royal devotees waited for hours outside the white walls of the storybook palace compound to greet them, carrying portraits of King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida and waving national flags.

The monarch waved to the crowd and smiled, surrounded by aides who crouched beside him as he walked. He paused briefly to make a rare comment when asked what he would say to the protesters who have been demanding reforms.

"We love them all the same," the Thai king told the

UK's Channel 4. Asked if there was room to compromise with protesters, the king said, "Thailand is the land of compromise," and quickly turned to walk away.

The unprecedented challenge to decades of tradition has led royalists—mainly older Thais—to stage their own counter-rallies and to denounce the protesters for raising the issue, increasing the risk of violent confrontations or intervention by the army, which declares defense of the monarchy to be one of its main duties.

Virtually all of the supporters in the crowd Sunday wore yellow shirts, signifying loyalty to the crown.

"I came here today led by my heart," said 44-year-old businesswoman and astrological consultant Pakawarin Damrongrothawee. "Born as Thais, we must be grateful to the monarchy. If anyone wants

to protest the government, they can do it. But they must not touch the monarchy."

As the smiling royal couple emerged, members of the crowd shouted "Long live the King!" and kissed the monarch's feet as the couple passed, several wiping them with a towel. Some onlookers reached out to touch his hand, and gave the couple yellow roses as they went by. Other members of the royal family followed in their wake.

It was the latest of several such events that have taken place in a few cities around the country. It came after another week in which student-led demands to shake up the powerful royal institution made international headlines.

Supporters of the monarchy among the public at large have failed on their own to work up the same excitement and crowds as the pro-democracy demonstrators.

World

AS MACRON SEEKS UNDERSTANDING

Anti-France protests continue

KARACHI (AP)—Hundreds of protesters in Pakistan on Sunday burned effigies of France's leader and chanted anti-French slogans, as President Emmanuel Macron tried to send a message of understanding to Muslims around the world.

Smaller demonstrations in Lebanon, Turkey and India followed on anti-France protests across the Muslim world last week that were mostly led by Islamist groups.

The renewed protests came after President Macron's interview late Saturday in which he said that he understood the shock Muslims felt at caricatures depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Macron was speaking with the Qatar-based Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera, where he also defended freedoms of expression and France's secular values.

Macron's office said the interview was aimed at clarifying misunderstandings around France's position and the president's words which they say have been taken out of context.

"I have never said that," Macron told the Al-Jazeera interviewer, explaining that some false translations of his words in the media showed him to support the cartoons mocking Prophet Muhammad. "Those are lies."

Macron explained that all

religions are subject to the freedom of expression and "these drawings."

"I understand and respect that people can be shocked by these cartoons," he said. "But I will never accept that someone can justify the use of physical violence because of these cartoons. And I will always defend freedom of speech in my country, of thought, of drawing."

The interview set off a storm on social media, as many argued the Qatari station erred by giving space to the French President, whom they said failed to apologize for offending Muslims. Some criticized Macron for choosing Al-Jazeera, a station that has been at the center of political disputes between Arab Gulf nations and Turkey and viewed by many as giving airtime to hardliners and Islamist groups, outlawed in many countries in the Middle East.

But for others, Macron's appearance on Al-Jazeera was hailed as a success of the protest and boycott campaigns, which have forced the French president to address Muslims through an Arabic-speaking channel.

The protests in Muslim-majority nations over the last week, and calls for boycotts of French products, began initially after Macron eulogized a French teacher in

Paris who was decapitated for showing caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class. Two attacks followed on a group of worshippers in a church in Nice, and a Greek priest in Lyon.

Islamist groups and hardliners around the Muslim world have rallied their supporters against the caricatures and the French government's staunch secularist stance, keeping up protests over the last week targeting Macron.

On Sunday in the Pakistani city of Karachi, hundreds of supporters of the main Islamist party, Jaamat-e-Islami, set an effigy of Macron on fire. The crowd of about 500 chanted against Macron and called for the boycott of French products.

The crowd, which was smaller in number after larger rallies over the past days, marched toward the French Consulate in the city while security cordoned off the area.

Earlier Sunday in Karachi, Shiite students marched for three kilometers (1.8 miles) chanting and pledging to sacrifice their lives for the honor of Islam and its prophet. Some 500 students, including a couple hundred women, dragged French flags on the floor and carried pictures of Macron. One banner depicted Macron's face with a big cross.

Protests in Brazil support president in anti-vaccine stance

SAO PAULO (AP)—Small groups of protesters gathered in Brazil's two biggest cities Sunday to demonstrate against any mandate for the taking of a coronavirus vaccine, supporting a rejection campaign encouraged by President Jair Bolsonaro.

People assembled in downtown Sao Paulo calling for the removal of Sao Paulo state Gov. Joao Doria, who has said state residents will be required to take a vaccine, likely the one being developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Sinovac and the local Butantan Institute.

"Doria will fall!" the protesters chanted. "Out with Doria!"

The CoronaVac, as it is being called, has been a prime target for skepticism from Bolsonaro and others, with the president saying Brazilians will not be guinea pigs to the Chinese. The issue has become a talking point in mayoral and city council

campaigns for elections later this month, and as most health professions support vaccination, social media campaigns have raised questions about possible perils of vaccines.

Demonstrators supporting Bolsonaro on the question also protested on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro.

A PoderData poll said this week the percentage of Brazilians who say they would take a coronavirus vaccine dropped to 63% in October from 85% four months earlier. The percentage rejecting the idea of taking a vaccine rose to 22% from 8% in July.

The Getulio Vargas Foundation think tank said an analysis of 2 million Twitter postings found that 24% of profiles identified as pro-Bolsonaro and they accounted for 56% of mentions against the vaccine. On the other side, 47% of profiles identified as pro-vaccine and represented 32% of the postings.

In October, Doria said vaccination would be mandatory in his state, and Bolsonaro's health minister, Eduardo Pazuello, announced that the country had agreed to purchase CoronaVac doses produced locally.

The president quickly responded that he would not allow the import of vaccines from China. Though the health regulator later gave permission for Butantan to import 6 million doses, on Thursday the president said on his weekly live program that he would not buy the vaccine and that the governor should "find someone else to buy your vaccine."

On Friday, Vice President Hamilton Mourao told the magazine *Veja* that "of course" the country will buy the Butantan-Sinovac vaccine. Bolsonaro immediately responded that he is the one with the power and he won't spend on any vaccine that is not approved by the Brazilian health regulator.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW



The Hyundai Ioniq, a car offered solely as a hybrid, plug-in hybrid and electric vehicle with prices starting at \$23,200, is an attractive five-door hatchback with some incredibly attractive numbers.

TNS

The Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid is fine, as long as you're not in a hurry

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Well, this is a tough spot. The feds are imposing tough EPA mandates for automakers to maximize fuel economy at a time when gas prices are cheaper than they were in the 1960s when adjusted for inflation. Yet given the price at the pump, is it any wonder that consumers are ignoring fuel efficiency?

That's the case with the Hyundai Ioniq, a car offered solely as a hybrid, plug-in hybrid and electric vehicle. At a time when 2021 models are arriving in showrooms, Hyundai's website is still flogging the 2020s. Overlooked by a shortsighted public, with prices starting at \$23,200, this attractive five-door hatchback has some incredibly attractive numbers. But those who treasure the fast and furious over the frugal and fuel efficient will be disappointed when it's time to mash the throttle. Since this is a hybrid, you can forget about 0-to-60 mph statistics. The numbers that matter come from the EPA: namely 55 mpg city, 54 mpg highway.

Offered in base Blue model, and climbing through SE, SEL and Limited trims, Hyundai supplied a Limited model for testing.

Sounds great, right? With the pandemic economy wreaking havoc on Americans' livelihoods, any vehicle that can help rein in expenses is welcome.

Thankfully, despite being a hybrid, the Ioniq's design is modern without looking like some alien spacecraft, some-

thing you can't say about its main competitor, the Toyota Prius. In fact, the Ioniq looks like a hatchback sibling to the Elantra, although it wears a unique hatchback with a large glass window that waterfalls vertically into the tailgate, not unlike an old Honda CRX. It's a look that had bystanders doing double takes. No really, it happened—although I never expected it.

Inside, the decor is definitely commensurate with its \$23,200 starting price, even in the \$31,200 Ioniq Limited. But the textures are attractive, and many of the materials incorporate recycled or ecologically sensitive materials. The interior door panels are made of plastic, powdered wood and volcanic stone, while the headliner uses raw elements extracted from sugar cane and the eco-friendly paint is made with ingredients extracted from soybean oil.

This car certainly plays the green card well enough, but it also possesses some niceties that make living with it far easier, such as the large touchscreen that anchors the instrument panel. On lower trim levels, it's framed by shortcut buttons, while Limited models get a full-width 10.3-inch screen, and no buttons. The intuitive user interface is elegantly designed and easy to use. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, augmented by auxiliary and USB ports. The test car also featured Qi wireless charging.

As you'd expect in a car just 176 inches long, front seat head and legroom are generous, although rear seat accommodations are merely adequate. The cargo area is spacious but

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 HYUNDAI IONIQ HEV LIMITED

- **Base price:** \$31,200
- **Engine:** Atkinson Cycle DOHC 16-valve 1.6-liter four-cylinder
- **Motor:** 32-kW permanent magnet synchronous
- **Horsepower:** 139
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** 55/54 mpg
- **Actual fuel economy:** 40.5 mpg
- **Fuel required:** Regular unleaded
- **Length/Width/Height:** 176/71.7/56.9 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 5.3 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 26.5 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity:** Not rated
- **Curb weight:** 3,115 pounds

lacking in height, although it's more than roomy enough for everyday use, and the cargo cover has its own track, making it easy to operate.

The Ioniq's heart is in the right place until it comes time to drive, and that's when the Ioniq's economy car personality shines through.

The Ioniq uses an Atkinson Cycle DOHC 16-valve 1.6-liter four-cylinder gas engine and 32-kW electric motor to deliver 139 horsepower to its front wheels through a six-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Kudos to Hyundai for passing up the temptation to use a continuously variable automatic transmission, which typically exacerbates any lack of performance. As it is, the Ioniq is slow, and the transmission is reluctant to downshift when asked for more power—typical of economy car gearing. This wouldn't matter if the car delivered 55 mpg, as the EPA says it does. But one week and nearly 250 miles of driv-

ing yielded 40.5 mpg, which is nothing to scoff at, but not nearly as good as expected.

The same could be said of the Ioniq's handling. Although the car feels stable and composed when pattering along pokey parkways, push it hard, as you might have to in an emergency maneuver, and you'll reach its handling limits quickly as the body leans and the low rolling resistance tires howl in protest. And there's a surprising amount of tire and road noise at highway speed. Annoyingly, the windshield suffers from far too many dashboard reflections, making it difficult to see through.

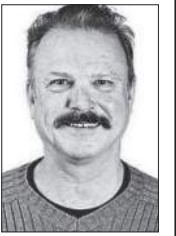
Of course, given that many of our roads are clogged with traffic, horsepower may not matter as much as fuel efficiency. If you're not in much of a hurry, you'll find this car a perfect fit. And you'll be comforted by the Ioniq's standard forward-collision warning, automated emergency braking, lane-departure warning, lane-keeping assist and optional blind-spot monitoring and rear cross-traffic alert.

For those looking for a car with a bit more soul, not a rolling appliance with collision-avoidance features and a touchscreen, you'd be best advised to look elsewhere in the Hyundai showroom.

However, Hyundai is planning to make Ioniq its electric vehicle sub-brand, expanding it beyond this model to include three more electric vehicles. So this is one story that's far from finished. And knowing how quickly Hyundai improves with every new model, the forthcoming EVs' performance should far outshine this one.

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, *Consumer Guide* and *Consumers Digest*. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Motormouth: Don't worry about the tires

Q I bought a 2020 Subaru Forester about three months ago. Falken tires came standard. Not knowing anything about this brand (I'm not sure if I had ever heard of this brand before), I stopped at an independent tire shop that sells Falken among other brands. When I asked about Falken, the immediate answer was "they're not very good." He also said they should be good for 40,000 miles. I found out later that there is no mileage warranty. For the last three months I have been worrying about having "not very good" tires. I haven't lost any sleep, but I still worry. Should I be worrying?

—W.N., Richfield, Minn.

A To the best of my knowledge, Falken tires are fine. They come as original equipment on several brands of vehicles. They are popular in motorsports, especially for drifting and endurance races. The tires are not included in the new car warranty, but separately by the tire maker. The company says on its website that "Falken tires that are originally equipped on this vehicle are warranted against any defects in the materials and workmanship for the usable life of the original tread."

Q I have always maintained my cars and have taught my two daughters the importance of vehicle maintenance. One question they asked is how far can tire pressures be off from the recommended pressures and not affect safety or handling. If the recommended PSI is 35, is anywhere from 32-38 psi safe? Also, which type of tire gauge is the most reliable?

—S.S., Chicago

A Since 2008, all passenger vehicles are required by law to have a tire pressure monitoring system. It will trigger a warning light whenever a tire is 25% below its recommended correct pressure. See your tire information sticker on the driver's door post. Low pressure not only affects handling, but braking distance and wear. Unless they are old or mistreated, most gauges are reliable.

Q What is the correct tire PSI that should be used: the one on the car door frame, which is 32 PSI, or the one on the sidewall of the tire, which says up to 44 PSI.

—T.B., Cortland, Ill.

A Always go by the sticker on the car. The figure on the tire is the maximum safe inflation pressure, not the correct inflation pressure.

Q My last flat tire set a record for size at my tire dealer. I had been driving in farm country on a dirt road and acquired the piston rod from a tractor engine. The tractor must have thrown the rod and it somehow worked its way entirely into my rear left tire.

—J.G., Bloomington, Ill.

A We thought the flat tire issue had gone a bit flat. But we couldn't pass up sharing your story. Now, we will really put this issue to bed.

Q What is the best way to discourage mice from getting into cars stored for the winter? My stored car is clean, garaged and covered. I add some peppermint or Irish Spring soap in the engine compartment, yet some years I've seen evidence that I've had visitors although thankfully no damage.

—P.C., Elmhurst, Ill.

A Curiously, laundry dryer sheets reportedly keep critters away. Stuff some steel wool in the engine's intake and the tailpipe, too, to prevent them from setting up house inside.

Life & Style

Sean Connery,

the 'original' James Bond, dies at 90

LONDON (AP)—Sean Connery, the charismatic Scottish actor who rose to international superstardom as the suave secret agent James Bond and then abandoned the role to carve out an Oscar-winning career in other rugged roles, has died. He was 90.

Connery's wife and two sons said he "died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by family" in the Bahamas, where he lived. Son Jason Connery said his father had been "unwell for some time."

Bond producers Michael G.

Wilson and Barbara Broccoli said they were "devastated" by the news. They said Connery's "gritty and witty portrayal of the sexy and charismatic secret agent" was largely responsible for the success of the film series.

"He was and shall always be remembered as the original James Bond whose indelible entrance into cinema history began when he announced those unforgettable words—'The name's Bond... James Bond,'" they said in a statement.

Daniel Craig, the current

Bond, said Connery "defined an era and a style" and that the "wit and charm he portrayed on screen could be measured in mega watts."

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the country was mourning "one of her best loved sons."

Connery, was a commanding screen presence for some 40 years. He was in his early 30s—and little known—when he starred in the first Bond thriller, 1962's "Dr. No," based on the Ian Fleming novel.

Condemned as immoral

by the Vatican and the Kremlin, but screened at the White House for Bond fan John F. Kennedy, "Dr. No" was a box office hit and launched a franchise that long outlasted its Cold War origins.

United Artists couldn't wait to make more films about the British secret agent, with ever more elaborate stunts and gadgets, along with more exotic locales and more prominent co-stars, among them



Connery

Lotte Lenya and Jill St. John.

For decades, with actors from Connery to Craig in the leading role, filmgoers have loved the outrageous stunts, vicious villains and likable, roguish hero who enjoyed a life of carousing, fast cars, gadgety weapons, elegant clothes and vodka martinis (always shaken, not stirred).

Connery continued as Bond in "From Russia With Love," "Goldfinger," "Thunderball,"

"You Only Live Twice" and "Diamonds Are Forever," often performing his own stunts.

"Diamonds Are Forever" came out in 1971 and by then Connery had grown weary of playing 007 and feared he wasn't being taken seriously despite his dramatic performances in Alfred Hitchcock's "Marnie" and Sidney Lumet's "The Hill."

"I'd been an actor since I was 25, but the image the press put out was that I just fell into this tuxedo and started mixing vodka martinis," he once complained.

Ruling due in Depp's high-stakes libel suit against tabloid

LONDON (AP)—A British judge will decide Monday whether a tabloid newspaper defamed Johnny Depp by calling him a "wife beater," a ruling with huge implications for the careers of both Depp and former spouse Amber Heard.

Justice Andrew Nicol is due to deliver his judgement in writing, three months after the end of a trial that exposed stark details of the Hollywood couple's tempestuous marriage. There will be no in-person hearing because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Depp sued News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, at London's High Court over an April 2018 article that accused him of assaulting Heard, an actress whose films include "Justice League" and "Aquaman."

Both Depp and Heard spent several days in the witness box during the three-week trial in July, giving irreconcilable accounts of their volatile relationship. The pair met on the

set of 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in 2015. They separated the following year and divorced in 2017.

Heard, 34, testified as the main witness for the defense, saying Depp turned into a violent alter ego he dubbed the "Monster" when under the influence of alcohol and drugs. She alleged 14 separate incidents between 2013 and 2016 in which he hit, slapped and shoved her, pulled her hair and threw bottles at her. The alleged assaults took place in glamorous settings including the couple's luxury penthouse, Depp's private island in the Bahamas and an executive jet.

Depp, 57, branded her allegations "sick" and a "hoax" and claimed Heard was the aggressor during their relationship. He claimed that Heard hit him, even severing the tip of his finger with a thrown vodka bottle during an altercation in Australia during filming of a "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

Report: Britain's Prince William had coronavirus in April

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince William tested positive for the coronavirus in April, around the same time as his father Prince Charles, BBC reported.

The report cited unidentified palace sources and The Sun newspaper, which said William kept his telephone and video engagements without revealing his diagnosis because he didn't want to worry anyone.

Kensington Palace declined to comment Sunday but did not deny the report.

The newspaper said William was treated by palace doctors and followed government guidelines by isolating at the family home Anmer Hall.

Prince Charles had mild COVID-19 symptoms in



March. In his first public engagement after recovering, Charles revealed he lost his sense of taste and smell while he was sick.

William made a public appearance in mid-October with his grandmother Queen Eliza-

beth II, who was making her first public engagement outside of a royal residence since early March. They met with scientists at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down in southern England.

(AP PHOTO/MATT DUNHAM, POOL, FILE)

In this Oct. 20, 2020, file photo, wearing a face covering to curb the spread of coronavirus Britain's Prince William meets pharmacist Joyce Duah as he and his wife Kate the Duchess of Cambridge visit St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, to mark the launch of the nationwide "Hold Still" community photography project. Prince William tested positive for the coronavirus, apparently around the same time as his father Prince Charles earlier this year, BBC reported. The report cited unidentified palace sources and The Sun newspaper, which said William kept his telephone and video engagements without revealing his diagnosis because he didn't want to worry anyone.

Grandma raising young girls grows tired of mom's antics

DEAR ABBY: I am raising my two granddaughters and trying to allow their mother, my daughter, to visit with them. My problem is, the entire time she is with us, she stays on her phone or Snapchat. Last weekend, I drove to the place where she resides, and the whole time we were there she ignored the girls. I have a ton of family and friends who say I'm wrong for allowing her to even see the girls, period. I don't want to be the bad guy when they grow up. Help, Abby.

FOR THEIR GOOD IN OHIO

DEAR FOR THEIR GOOD: Either your daughter doesn't know how to relate to her children, which is why she stays on her cellphone when you bring them to her, or she's not interested in creating a bond since she has offloaded them to you. Talk with your daughter. Tell her that if she isn't prepared to actually spend time with her children, you will stop bringing them, and then follow through. Children aren't stupid. They know when someone is interested in them and when they are being ignored. In the end, you won't be the "bad guy" in their eyes.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing because I'm sure other grandparents have faced the same issue as I have. I enjoy sending my grandchildren cards with a small check for special occasions or as a reward for doing well in school, etc. My son and daughter-in-law have a reward system set up with my grandson where

he receives an allowance for doing his chores, but has money deducted if he doesn't.

I sent my grandson a small check with his birthday card, but my son informed me that he will be able to keep only \$2 of it, because he's in the hole for not doing his chores. I feel the check was a gift and should have been kept separate from the rewards program. Who is right—my son or me?

GENEROUS GRAN IN WASHINGTON

DEAR GRAN: I think you are. But since your son and daughter-in-law dictate what goes on under their roof, it doesn't matter what you and I think. The rules are the rules, and your grandson needs to get off his behind and catch up on those chores!

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are snowbirds and head south for a few sunny months every winter. We rent in an active adults community and enjoy all the clubs and sports. Our problem is the number of relatives and friends who invite themselves down for a free vacation.

Unless I specifically call and invite you, I am not interested in spending my vacation—which is costing me a pretty penny—making beds, washing towels, cooking much more elaborate meals than my husband and I usually eat and ferrying you around to see the sights. Feel free to rent your own place or stay in a

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

hotel wherever you wish, but please do not include us in your plans. Thank you, Abby, for letting me get that off my chest!

ANSWER IS NO

DEAR ANSWER: You are welcome. That's what I am here for. But you are venting to the wrong person. This is something you should express to each of the friends and relatives who think they can continue to impose upon you. Who can blame them? They thought your silence was consent.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

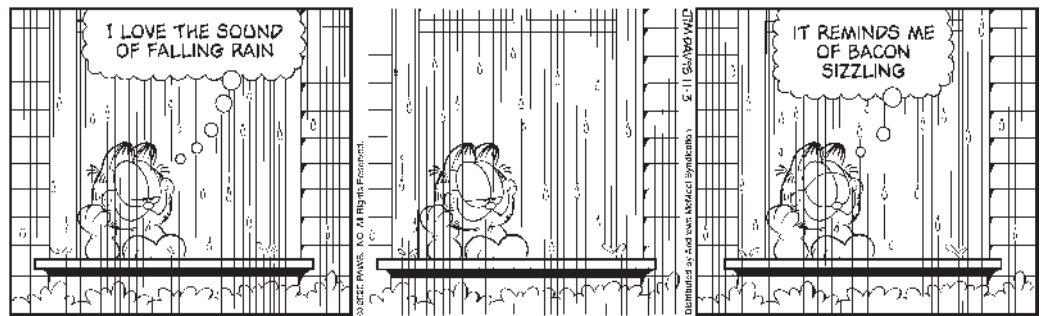
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



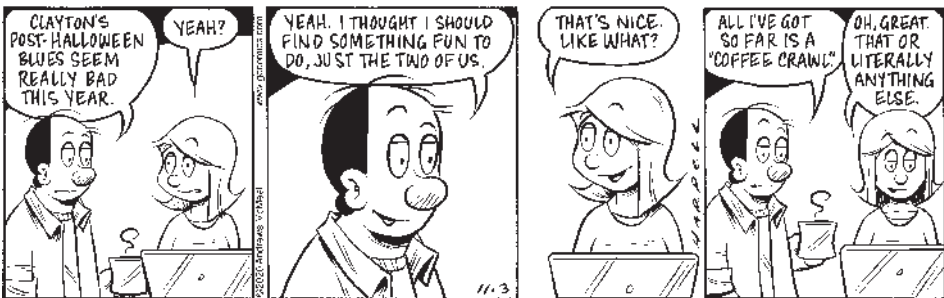
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



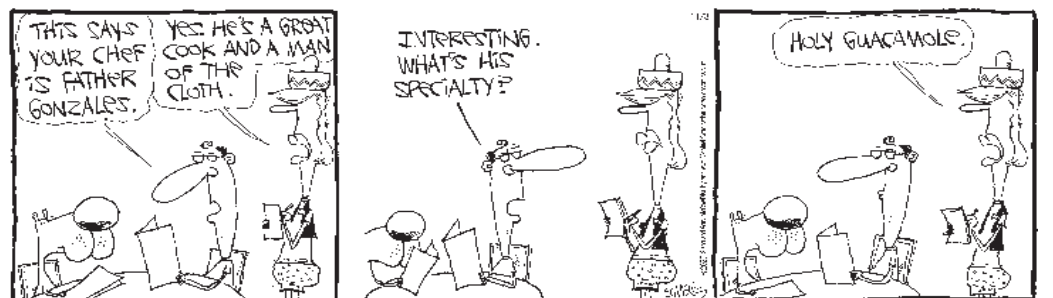
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Clock radio toggle

5 Lobbyists' org.

8 Blacken on a grill

12 Algeria's neighbor

13 Docs' org.

14 Circle dance

15 Goad

16 Lumber processors

18 Woodshop sweepings

20 Bar legally

21 Gorilla

22 Nemesis

23 "The Bells of St. —"

26 Sleep noisily

30 Commotion

31 Blend

32 Feathery wrap

33 Tom and Diane

36 Loses traction

38 Calendar abbr.

DOWN

39 Extinct New Zealand bird

40 Knucklehead

43 Ten spot

47 Carpenter's aid

49 Twice cuatro

50 Hodgepodge

51 VJ's network

52 Actress Lena

53 El —

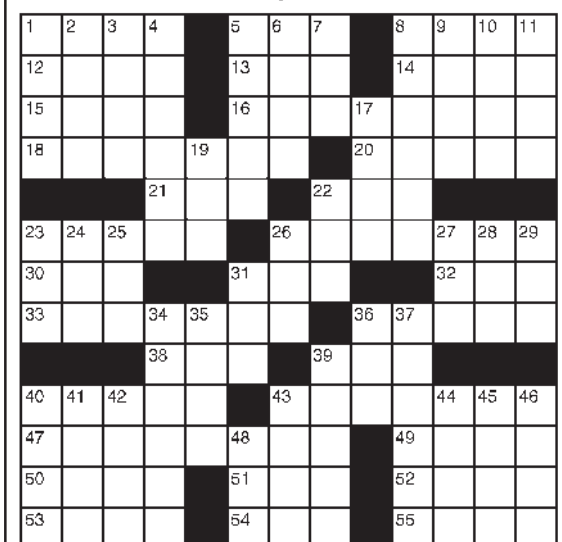
54 Away from NNW

55 — Hari

Solution time: 22 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 11-3

1 LORD 2 BRA 3 COMA 4 ALAI 5 EAR 6 RBIS 7 MEMO 8 W 9 OW 10 ECKS 11 BOSNIA 12 DEADEN 13 NO 14 I 15 EMI 16 TRUE 17 WEST 18 SERA 19 ION 20 AS 21 LOW 22 NAP 23 COIN 24 AP 25 WATER 26 FOP 27 MMIV 28 SCONES 29 AIELLO 30 TURF 31 WASS 32 VOAH 33 ERMA 34 VAT 35 JPN 36 NEST 37 FTS 38 FSSO



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Smart, 33; Gemma Ward, 33; Colin Kaepernick, 33; Dolph Lundgren, 63.

Happy Birthday: Look at the possibilities and what's positive in your life, and use your strengths to get ahead. Dismiss negativity and people who drag you down. Clear a path to a better future. Adopt what's trending, and turn what you have achieved into something spectacular. Balance and integrity will determine the success you achieve. Strive for respect, honor and leadership. Your numbers are 8, 13, 22, 26, 33, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a closer look at places you want to visit or courses you wish to take. Expanding your options and adding to your resume will broaden your chance to follow a path that suits your personality. Romance is in the stars. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be offered invalid information from someone you thought to be trustworthy. Verify what you hear before you pass along information that will make you look bad. You are only as good as your word; stick to what you know. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your charm and flirtatious ways will work wonders for you as long as you don't break promises along the way. Mean what you say, and avoid giving someone the wrong impression. Make personal improvements, fitness and health priorities. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't get upset over things you cannot change. Concentrate on what you can do and honing skills that will benefit you. Taking a

unique approach to your responsibilities will set you apart from any competition you face. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Align yourself with the people you know and trust to have your back. How you deal with information will make a difference to the outcome. Be direct, and refuse to make a decision or move without verification. Self-improvement is favored. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): How you relate to others will make a difference moving forward. Offer suggestions, but don't force your opinion on others. It's crucial to maintain peace and integrity going forward. If uncertainty sets in, back away. Don't mix business with pleasure. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of matters that concern your future. Learn all you can, and look for ways to improve your health, appearance, knowledge and relationships with others. Distance yourself from individuals who are demanding, excessive or disruptive. *****

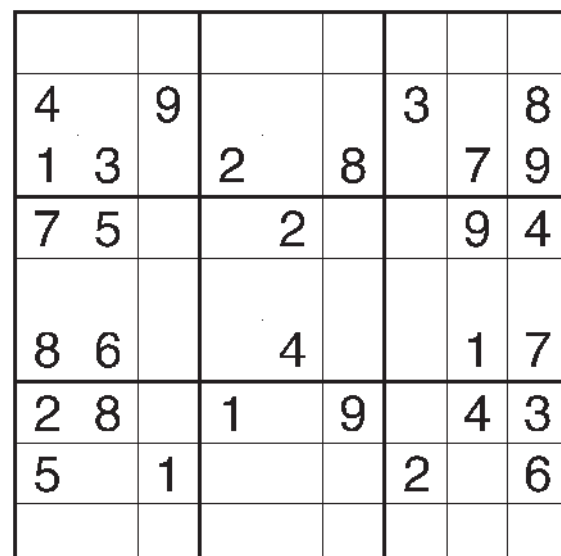
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Control will be necessary. Walk away from situations that appear risky or people who are trying to take advantage of you. Gather the facts, and question inaccuracy and cover-ups. Think twice before you donate or get involved in a costly venture. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make domestic changes, and improve the relationships with the people you live with or work alongside. Keep an open dialogue, and it will offset accusations of evasive behavior. Don't let a money matter get out of hand. Joint ventures are discouraged. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



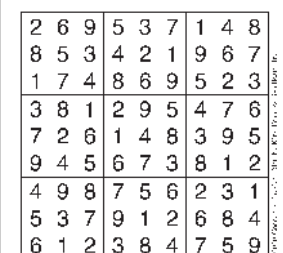
Difficulty Level ★★

11/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

11/03

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Think before you act. If you say something in haste, you will have regrets. You are better off biding your time and listening to what others have to offer. You may want change, but sound judgment and proper motives are essential. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make positive changes at home that will add to your comfort and convenience and bring you closer to your loved ones. Put muscle behind your plans. Do the work yourself, and the rewards will be greater than anticipated. Romance is favored. *****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Defuse your emotions until you have all the facts. If you are too quick to react, you will upset someone you love. Make a change that can help you get back on track or encourage a better way to earn a living. **

Birthday Baby: You are charming, energetic and proactive. You are playful and entertaining.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE' (1952 FILM) Solution: 11 letters



© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/3

Adventure, Alkan, Allen, Ally, Alvina, Andes, Anne, Ben, British, Captain, Charles, Coast, Colonies, Dutchman, Edward, Edwin, Egan, Glares, Henry, Irene, Jeremy, Job, Keith, King, Lady, Leader, LeMay, Letter, Lieutenant, Life, Maynard, Morgan, Navy, Noel, Noll, Pierre, Piracy, Queen, Raoul, Robert, Ryan, Scott, Story, Surgeon, Teach, Walsh, West Indies

Yesterday's Answer: Babe Ruth

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Steelers stay perfect, Tagovailoa wins debut



BALTIMORE (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers rallied behind Ben Roethlisberger to remain the lone unbeaten team in the NFL, beating error-prone Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens 28-24 Sunday in a duel for first place in the AFC North.

Roethlisberger threw a pair of second-half touchdown passes to bring Pittsburgh (7-0) back from a 10-point halftime deficit. After completing only four passes for 24 yards in the first half, the 38-year-old finished 21 for 32 for 182 yards.

Jackson threw two interceptions and lost two fumbles, turnovers that helped Pittsburgh stay within striking distance until its offense finally got on track.

The Steelers led 28-24 when the Ravens (5-2) faced a fourth-and-3 at the Pittsburgh 8 with 2 minutes left. Jackson ran a quarterback draw and lost the ball while being stopped short.

Baltimore got the ball back and moved to the Pittsburgh 23 before Jackson's pass in the end zone was broken up on the final play.

The Steelers stretched their streak of games with at least one sack to 64.

Bills 24, Patriots 21

Backup defensive lineman

Justin Zimmer punched the ball out of Cam Newton's arms and the fumble was recovered by safety Dean Marlowe at the Buffalo 13 with 31 seconds remaining to secure the win.

Zack Moss scored two touchdowns rushing and the AFC East-leading Bills are off to consecutive 6-2 starts for the first time since a six-year run from 1988 to 1993. Buffalo snapped a seven-game skid against the division-rival Patriots, and beat a Bill Belichick-coached New England team for just the sixth time in 41 meetings, going back to 2000.

New England dropped to 2-5 and has lost four in a row, matching its worst skid since 2002.

Dolphins 28, Rams 17

Tua Tagovailoa threw his first career touchdown pass and then let his teammates take over with a succession of big plays.

The Dolphins stamped themselves as playoff contenders by earning their third consecutive win. They struck for scores 75 seconds apart on Andrew Van Ginkel's 78-yard fumble return and Jakeem Grant's team-record 88-yard punt return. They came up with four takeaways in the first half and at halftime led 28-10 despite being outgained 224-54.

Bears fans want Trubisky back as starting QB

CHICAGO—Things could be a lot worse for the Chicago Bears, even if it doesn't feel that way. They're 5-3, have one of the NFL's best all-around defenses, and are only one game behind the Green Bay Packers in the NFC North.

Still, it doesn't feel like this team is capable of competing with this year's likely playoff field. The offense just isn't good enough, and it starts at quarterback where veteran Nick Foles has failed in his attempt to provide stability and an uptick in production.

Sunday's overtime loss to the Saints was, essentially, the worst-case scenario for the Bears' quarterback dilemma. It became abundantly clear early in the game that Foles' statuesque pocket presence was a liability for Chicago, and his failures as a passer throughout the game left fans wondering if Mitch Trubisky would get another shot behind center.

Trubisky's ability as a runner certainly would've helped the Bears' painfully bad offensive line and would've at least kept New Orleans' pass rush honest because of the threat he presents with his legs.

But the change never

came, and while Foles did heat up late in the game and managed to keep the Bears alive for an extra period of play, the bad part of his career resume—five teams in nine years—was easy to understand.

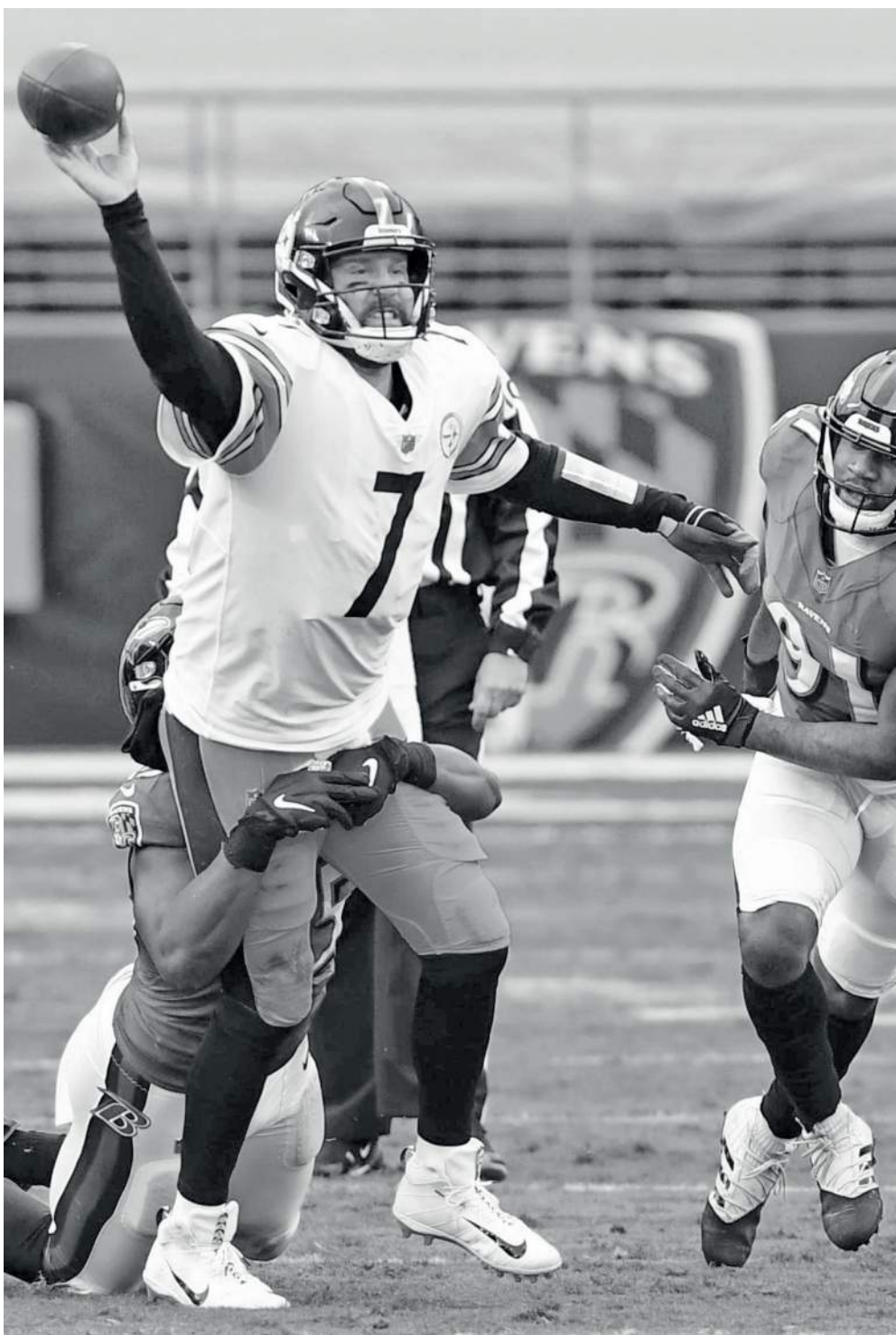
Before we go rewriting history, it would be unfair to ignore the fact that Trubisky had more than a fair opportunity to prove to the Bears and their fanbase that he was 'the guy.' He had 44 starts. And he was bad than good during that stretch. But at a critical point in the 2020 season, it's now or never; if Trubisky will ever be the guy, it's now.

And Bears fans are eager to see if he can do it.

In a poll, Bears fans were who they want as the team's starting quarterback moving forward. More than 500 faithful responded, and the results were overwhelmingly in Trubisky's favor: 64.5%-35.5%.

Sure, this isn't a scientific poll, and any question that's asked after a bitter defeat requires context. But these results aren't close; the fans want Trubisky back in the lineup.

Your move, Matt Nagy. Your move. *(NBC)*



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) attempts a pass during the second half of an NFL game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, in Baltimore.

Raiders 16, Browns 6

Derek Carr threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow early in the fourth quarter and Daniel Carlson kicked three field goals in windy, wintry conditions along Lake Erie.

Carr's strike to Renfrow with 14:53 to go was the game's only TD and helped the Raiders (4-3) bounce back after they fell apart late in last week's 45-20 loss to Tampa Bay.

Using running back Josh Jacobs and a short passing game, Carr controlled the clock in the second half and kept the ball away from the Browns (5-3).

Bengals 31, Titans 20

After watching Giovani Bernard and Samaje Perine run for early scores, Joe Burrow threw two fourth-quarter TD passes and closed it out with a time-consuming drive.

The Bengals (2-5-1) blew leads each of the previous two weeks, but Burrow would not allow it to happen again. Instead, he threw for 249 yards and the crucial late scores to snap a three-game losing streak. Cincinnati has matched its victory total from last season. And it was the first time second-year head coach Zac Taylor has defeated a team with a winning record.

Chiefs 35, Jets 9

Patrick Mahomes threw for 416 yards and five touchdowns, the Kansas City defense shut down Sam Darnold and the inept Jets offense.

Tyreek Hill had 98 yards receiving and two touchdowns, Travis Kelce finished with 109 yards and another score, and Mecole Hardman and Demarcus Robinson also reached the end zone. The Chiefs (7-1) gave Andy Reid his 229th win to move into a tie with Hall of Fame coach Curly Lambeau for fifth most in NFL history.

Colts 41, Lions 21

Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes in the second quarter to give Indianapolis a double-digit lead.

Rivers picked apart Detroit's defense while completing 23 of 33 attempts, mostly short passes to the outside or over the middle. The 38-year-old quarterback also showed he still has some arm strength to go along with his savvy touch, perfectly throwing a 29-yard pass to Nyheim Hines late in the first half.

The big plays helped Tagovailoa overcome a costly early turnover in his first NFL start. The No. 5 overall pick in this year's draft finished 12 of 22 for 93 yards.

Saints 26, Bears 23, OT

Drew Brees threw FOR two touchdowns to regain the NFL's all-time lead from Tom Brady, and Wil Lutz nailed a 35-yard field goal in overtime.

The Bears' Cairo Santos booted a 51-yard field goal at the end of regulation to force the extra period.

The Saints (5-2) led 23-13 early in the fourth quarter after scoring 20 consecutive points, only to have Chicago rally in the closing minutes of regulation. But the three-time defending NFC South champions pulled out their fourth straight win when Lutz connected on their second possession of OT.

The Saints had a first down at the 16 when coach Sean Payton called on him. And Lutz delivered, sending the Bears (5-3) to their second straight loss.

Seahawks 37, 49ers 27

Russell Wilson threw four more touchdown passes, two to DK Metcalf. Wilson and Metcalf tormented San Francisco and its banged-up secondary as the top-scoring offense in the league continued to pile up points. The Seahawks (6-1) have scored at least 30 points in six of seven games.

Wilson hit Metcalf on a pair of first-half touchdown passes, but it was a 2 1/2-minute sequence midway through the third quarter when Seattle blew the game open.

Wilson found rookie DeeJay Dallas on a 2-yard TD pass after San Francisco went three-and-out to open the second half for a 20-7 lead. Dante Pettis fumbled the ensuing kickoff on a big hit from Cody Barton. Six plays later, Wilson evaded pressure in the pocket and zipped a 6-yard TD pass to David Moore for a 27-7 lead.

Broncos 31, Chargers 30

Drew Lock hit rookie KJ Hamler from 1 yard with no time on the clock and Bran-

don McManus nailed the extra point to win it. The Broncos (3-4) overcame a 24-3 deficit and rallied after being held to 60 first-half yards, including 2 on the ground.

The Chargers (2-5) appeared primed to end their seven-game AFC West losing streak behind another great performance by rookie Justin Herbert, who joined Deshaun Watson as the only QBs in NFL history with four straight games with three TD passes.

Vikings 28, Packers 22

Dalvin Cook gained 226 yards from scrimmage and became the first Viking in over four decades to score four touchdowns in a single game.

The Vikings withstood a three-touchdown performance from receiver Davante Adams, who had seven catches for 53 yards.

Green Bay had the ball at Minnesota's 41-yard line with 12 seconds and no timeouts left, but D.J. Wonnum sacked Aaron Rodgers and knocked the ball loose. Eric Wilson recovered at the 24 as time expired.

Stanton keeps contract, \$218M for 7 years



NEW YORK
(AP—Giancarlo Stanton is

keeping the remaining \$218 million and seven guaranteed years in his New York Yankees contract rather than opt out after a pair of injury-decimated seasons.

The slugging designated hitter, who turns 31 on Nov. 8, hit .266 with 38 homers and 100 RBIs in his first season with the Yankees in 2018. He batted .288 with three homers and 13 RBIs in 2019, when he was limited to 18 games by a left biceps strain that sidelined him from April 1 to June 18 and a right knee strain that kept him out from June 26 to Sept. 18.

He hit .250 with four homers and 11 RBIs in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, limited to 23 games by a strained left hamstring that sidelined him from Aug. 9 to Sept. 15. He rebounded to become the Yankees' best offensive player in the playoffs, hitting .308 (8 for 26) with six homers and 13 RBIs in seven games.

A four-time All-Star with Miami, Stanton agreed to a \$325 million, 13-year contract with the Marlins in November 2014. He hit .281 in 2017 and led the major leagues with 59 homers and 132 RBIs, then was traded to the Yankees in December 2017 for second baseman Starlin Castro, right-hander Jorge Guzmán and minor league infielder Jose Devers.

Stanton is due \$29 million in each of the next two seasons, \$32 million annually from 2023-25, \$29 million in 2026 and \$25 million in 2027. The deal includes a \$25 million club option for 2028 with a \$10 million buyout.

As part of terms of the trade, because Stanton did not opt out, the Marlins will send the Yankees \$30 million to offset part of what remains in his contract: \$5 million each

on July 1 and Oct. 1 in 2026, 2027 and 2028.

6 given qualifying offers

Houston outfielder George Springer, New York Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu and Philadelphia catcher J.T. Realmuto were among just six free agents who received \$18.9 million qualifying offers on Sunday from their former teams.

Three right-handed pitchers also received the offers, Cincinnati's Trevor Bauer, the New York Mets' Marcus Stroman and San Francisco's Kevin Gausman.

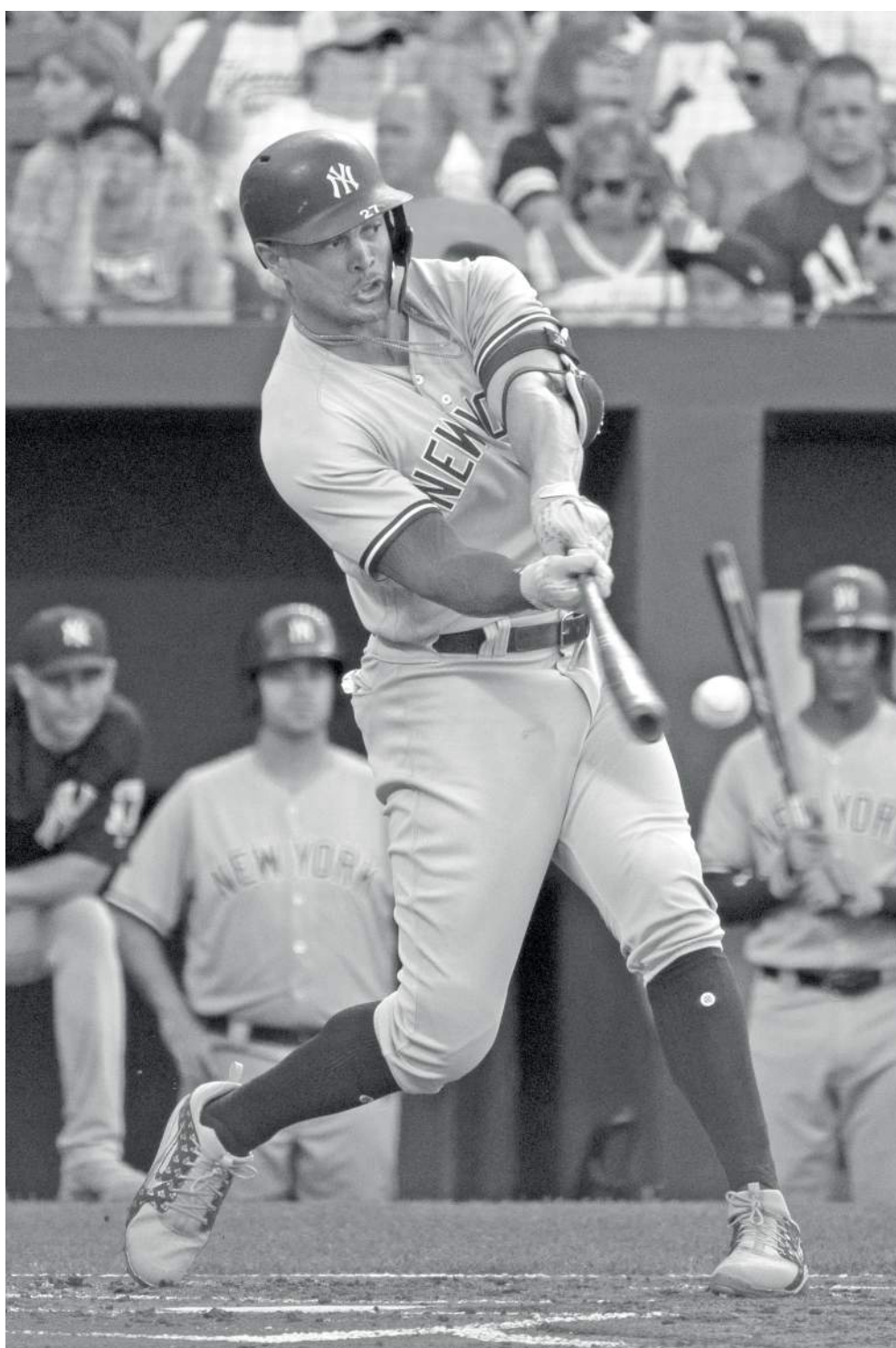
Those six players have until 5 p.m. on Nov. 11 to accept the offers or press ahead as free agents, who could start negotiating contracts with all teams on Sunday night.

They are the only ones subject to compensation among the 181 players who became free agents in a market that also includes pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, outfielder Marcell Ozuna, shortstop Didi Gregorius and designated hitter Nelson Cruz.

A brutal market is expected, with many teams likely to cut payrolls following a regular season played with no fans in the seats due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

If a team makes a qualifying offer to a player who signs a major league contract with another club before the June amateur draft, his former club would receive a draft pick as compensation at the end of the first round or at the end of competitive balance round B. The placement depends on whether the new contract is worth \$50 million or more and the revenue-sharing and luxury tax status of the team losing the player.

A free agent could be made a qualifying offer only if he had been with the same team



continuously since opening day and had never received a qualifying offer before.

Qualifying offers began after the 2012 season, and only five of 90 offers have been accepted: New York Mets second baseman Neil Walker and Philadelphia pitcher Jeremy Hellickson after the 2016

season; Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu after the 2018 season and Chicago White Sox first baseman José Abreu last season. Abreu later agreed to a \$50 million, three-year contract.

The qualifying offer price started at \$13.3 million in 2012 and rose to \$14.1 mil-

lion in 2013, \$15.3 million in 2014, \$15.8 million in 2015, \$17.2 million in 2016 and \$17.4 million in 2017.

Meanwhile, Boston designated J.D. Martinez kept his contract rather than go free and test the market following subpar seasons.

Martinez gets \$19,375,000

^{AP}
In this Oct. 12, 2019 file photo, New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton swings against the Houston Astros during the sixth inning in Game 1 of the American League Championship Series in Houston.

in each of the next two seasons and can opt out after 2021.

He hit a career-low .213 in the pandemic-shortened season with seven homers and 27 RBIs, his lowest output since 2013. His salary was cut from \$23.75 million to a prorated \$8,796,296.

Boston declined a \$6.85 million option on left-hander Martín Pérez and opted to pay a \$500,000 buyout to the 29-year-old, who became a free agent. Perez was 3-5 with a 4.50 ERA in 12 starts, striking out 46 and walking 28 in 62 innings in his first season with Boston after leaving Minnesota as a free agent. He had a \$6 million salary, reduced to \$2,222,222 in prorated pay.

Reliever Dellin Betances exercised his \$6 million player option with the Mets, deciding against taking a \$3 million buyout and becoming a free agent. A 6-foot-8 right-hander who turns 33 on March 23, Betances signed with the Mets last December for a deal that guaranteed \$10.5 million. A four-time All-Star during seven seasons with the New York Yankees, Betances slumped to a 7.71 ERA in 15 relief appearances with the Mets, walking 12 and striking out 11 in 11 2/3 innings.

Earlier, Mets reliever Brad Brach exercised his \$2,075,000 player option for next season.

Arizona exercised a \$4.25 million option on pitcher Merrill Kelly rather than pay a \$500,000 buyout, and Baltimore exercised a \$3.5 million option on shortstop José Iglesias rather than pay a \$500,000 buyout.

MASSACHUSETTS—The Boston Red Sox appear to be making progress in their search for a new manager.

According to MLB Network's Jon Heyman, the Red Sox have narrowed it down to five potential candidates: Sam Fuld, James Rowson, Don Kelly, Carlos Mendoza and former Boston skipper Alex Cora.

Fuld, 38, serves as the Philadelphia Phillies' major league player information coordinator. He spent eight years in the big leagues, including 2011-13 in Tampa Bay when Red Sox chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom was in the Rays' front office.

Rowson spent 2020 as the Miami Marlins bench coach and offensive coordinator.

Cora on short list for Red Sox manager post

Prior to that, the 44-year-old served as hitting coach for the Minnesota Twins (2017-19) and Chicago Cubs (2012-13).

Kelly, 40, was the Pittsburgh Pirates bench coach in 2020 and the Houston Astros first base coach in 2019. He played nine major-league seasons with the Pirates, Tigers, and Marlins.

Mendoza served in a variety of roles for the New York Yankees after his 13-year minor league career, including bench coach in 2020. The Red Sox reportedly interviewed the 45-year-old last week.

Cora managed the Red Sox in 2018-19, leading them to a

World Series title in 2018. In January, Boston parted ways with Cora as a result of his role in the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal in 2017. He served a year-long suspension in 2020.

Meanwhile, the Chicago White Sox naming Tony La Russa as their manager for the 2021 season turned out to be more of a controversial hire than anything. Many speculated the 76-year-old wouldn't be able to handle an up-and-coming team that has tons of young talent that made the playoffs last season.

However, former A's pitcher and current NBC Sports Cali-

fornia analyst Dave Stewart, who played for La Russa in Oakland and knows the manager well, said he likes the fit.

"I think that it's a great move, I really do," Stewart said. "I think that Tony has a way of putting the finishing touches on a team. He's a man of detail, that's for sure. So, small things that make winning teams, it's doing the little things and preparing to do the little things that win baseball games."

"When you look at, 'How do you get them to the finish line,' I think Tony fits the bill. I think he's the guy that can get them there," Stewart added.

Stewart, whom La Russa hired as the Arizona Diamondbacks' general manager in 2014 when La Russa ran the franchise's front office, was asked if he was approached by the Hall of Fame manager about possibly joining the coaching staff.

"Tony and I had a hypothetical conversation some weeks back and he had asked me if I would consider being a pitching coach, who would be the guys that I would do the job for? I told him, Bob Melvin, if asked, I would do it. Dusty Baker if asked, I would do it—and I told him if he was ever to get back in the arena,

I would do it, but like I said, that's been probably three weeks ago, maybe a month."

Stewart said perhaps then La Russa knew he would head to the White Sox, or at least was in the running for the managerial responsibilities.

"But to this point, I have not had any conversations about coming with him to Chicago as part of his coaching staff."

As far as La Russa not being able to handle the bat flips of White Sox star shortstop Tim Anderson, Stewart said that the manager would be fine handling that as well. Remember, La Russa once managed Rickey Henderson, who exuded swag, and Stewart said it would be a similar situation. (NBC)

76ers, Brand agree to contract extension



Sixers general manager Elton Brand has agreed to a contract extension, according to NBA league sources.

The Athletic's Shams Charania first reported the news of Brand's multi-year extension.

Brand, who was promoted from the GM of the Delaware Blue Coats in September of 2018, retains the same title, although roles and responsibilities will shift in the Sixers' front office with the hiring of Daryl Morey as president of basketball operations. Morey, the NBA's Executive of the Year for the 2017-18 season, has signed his contract to take over that position, per Clark.

The Sixers hired Peter Dinwiddie as executive vice president of basketball operations and Prosper Karangwa as VP of player personnel last month (see story). The firing of Brett Brown and hiring of new head coach Doc Rivers were two other important steps in the team's busy offseason.

Additionally, a team source confirmed that Alex Rucker, the executive VP of basketball operations under Brand, is out of the organization. Adam Aaronson of The Rights to Ricky Sanchez Podcast first

reported the news, and Keith Pompey of The Inquirer had reported earlier that the expectation was Rucker would be let go.

Rucker had been part of the Sixers since 2016 and was a key piece of the "collaborative" front office model. Once the Sixers hired Dinwiddie to Rucker's position, it seemed clear he would no longer hold meaningful influence.

Brand has made plenty of major moves in his two-plus years as GM, with trades for Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris, the free-agent signings of Al Horford and Harris, and the sign-and-trade that brought Butler to the Heat and Josh Richardson to Philadelphia among his most significant transactions. He also traded away Markelle Fultz and traded up to select Matisse Thybulle.

The near-max Harris deal and four-year, \$97 million guaranteed Horford contract did not work well last season, and they've put the Sixers in a difficult spot moving forward in terms of financial flexibility.

The day after firing Brown, Brand admitted he'd had to do a lot of learning on the job.

"... I've grown as a leader, I've grown as a general manager," he said. "I was put un-



In this Feb. 7, 2020 file photo, Philadelphia 76ers general manager Elton Brand speaks during a news conference before an NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Philadelphia. AP

der fire, I had so many great, tough decisions to be a part of. But now, I'm looking

forward to putting my stamp on this thing and take full accountability for whatever

happens next."

His partnership with Morey will be an important one as the Sixers transition ahead of the Nov. 18 NBA draft and free agency.

Meanwhile, Kansas City is one of the places that has popped up as a potential home to the Raptors next season if they can't play in Toronto. Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes wants it to happen.

Civil rights groups in the city sent a letter to the Raptors warning them about police brutality and social

justice issues in the city, questioning if the NBA wants to be associated with that.

Three civil rights groups in Kansas City are cautioning the NBA against considering KC as a temporary home for the Toronto Raptors for the upcoming season. The Urban League of Greater Kansas City, Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City and the Kansas City, Missouri chapter of the NAACP wrote a letter to the NBA commissioner.

ALVAREZ

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peted in the experts open division and prevailed over his son Shane Alvarez and seven other riders. Ellery Cruz was ranked third and was followed by Angelo Hernaez, Alverick Alvarez, Franklin Santos, Patrick Togawa, and Champi Anza.

Meanwhile, other first place finishers in the race sponsored by Pacific Trading Co., IT&E, 4 Ever CNMI, YCO True Value, and Matson, were Corey Pangelinan, Henry Camacho Sr., Efrain Taimanao, and Jonoah Santos.

Santos won in the peewees class, edging Keenon Togawa and Harley MacKenzie Susulin, while Taimanao won the minis I/II after prevailing over Michael Camacho and Mari Alvarez.



Young riders get ready at the starting line.

JOSEPH CHIN

Henry Camacho Sr. ruled the Big Boy ATV division after outclassing Ton Basa and Zack Sakamoto, while Corey Pangelinan triumphed in the novice 125/250 class, downing Gino Dela Cruz and Vince Torres.

Last Sunday's races came

less than a week after the Marpi property where the Cowtown Raceway used to be located was signed over to MRA via memorandum of understanding with the CNMI government, through the Department of Public Lands and Department of Community

and Cultural Affairs.

MRA will need months to clear the former racetrack and relay courses so it will continue to hold weekly races at the Kan Pacific grounds. The public is invited to watch the races, which usually take place in the afternoon.



Riders carve a tricky part of the course.

JOSEPH CHIN



Spectators watch Cuki Alvarez bar-hop during one of the Marianas Racing Association races last Sunday at the Kan Pacific grounds.

JOSEPH CHIN

NEW

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licensed by SNYC Network, while Bautista is licensed by Zumba International Network.

The two instructors said they thought about putting up a group to hold classes for more people.

"Exercising with a group is even more energizing and fun," Pelicano said.

"You feel connected to each other in a class. The connection is the energy we create when you come to the class, enjoy yourself, and let the music do the rest," Bautista said.

When they started their classes at the Minatchom At-dao Pavilion, Bautista and Pelicano drew only 10 participants. Today, more than 50 people are attending M2 Fitness' classes with a lot of regulars, as they are getting their rhythm through the guid-

ance of the two instructors. In her HIIT classes, Pelicano explained that routines like squats, lunges, burpees jacks, and push up challenge maybe tough, but with proper guidance and motivation, the participants, both men and women, are able to perform the drills.

The classes are free, but Bautista and Pelicano more than welcome kind words and testimonials from their students.

Desolee Calayo, one of the participants in the M2 Fitness classes, commented how she started to feel stronger in just 15 days of attending the program. Others took note of their improved stamina and endurance.

"When you see significant changes and good results from them, it's a big compliment for us. 'When you see their smiles before, during, and after the workout, it motivates us coaches to keep going,' Bautista said.



Steelers
stay perfect,
Tagovailoa
wins debut

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Stanton keeps
contract,
\$218M for
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sablan, Alvarez top MRA races



JOSEPH CHIN

Big Boy ATV class rider Henry Camacho Sr. jumps over a hill during the Marianas Racing Association mini tournament last Sunday at the Kan Pacific grounds.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Inspired by their latest acquisition of a permanent racetrack, Marianas Racing Association officials Steve Sablan and Cuki Alvarez led the winners list in a mini tournament held last Sunday at the Kan Pacific grounds.

Sablan and Alvarez, who led MRA's successful bid to reclaim the former Cowtown Raceway for the establishment of the Marianas Motocross Park last week, topped the veterans over 45 and expert open classes, respectively.



Sablan, the MRA president, defeated 10 other dirt bike riders in his division, including Alvarez, who finished second in the race. Melvin Cepeda rounded out the Top 3, while other finishers were Charles Cepeda, Boss Alva-

rez, Glenn Pangelinan, Dave Celis, Julian Salalila, Dave Burger, Edsel Mendoza, and Ray Yumul.

After his runner-up honors in the veterans class, Alvarez, the MRA vice president com-

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Veteran class riders head out to the course.

JOSEPH CHIN



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the M2 Fitness class pose for a photo after their session at the TSL Sports Complex.

New fitness group offers Zumba, HIIT classes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Come one, come all.

M2 Fitness welcomes everyone, regardless of their fitness level, to their regular workout classes at the TSL Sports Complex from Monday to Saturday. Mary Grace Bautista holds Zumba sessions every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,

while her co-licensed instructor Mishaal Pelicano conducts high-intensity interval training classes on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

"Our classes have 'no judgement zone.' It's okay if you don't have the rhythm. It's not about being the best dancer or being fit, it's about having a good time, being yourself, and enjoying every step," Bautista said.

Bautista added that M2 Fitness is relatively a new group, as she and Pelicano just started holding classes in August this year, but both are no strangers to fitness training as they are licensed to teach Zumba and HIITS lessons. Pelicano completed a STRONG by Zumba instructor training course and is

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